FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 JANUARY 1981

American Hostages

Majlis Deputy Speaker 'Ali Akbar Parvaresh announced that the debate scheduled on two bills intended to facilitate negotiations for the release of the U.S. hostages has been postponed. According to AFP, Parvaresh said not enough members of the Council of Guardians were present for the debate.

Earlier, Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani told a Tehran press conference that "it is possible that the hostages may be released between now and Friday" if the United States accepts "our just rights." According to AFP, Rafsanjani said the arbitration proposal introduced in a bill to the Majlis on 12 January "has nothing to do with the freeing of the hostages," indicating they can be freed before any arbitration procedure settles financial and judicial differences between Iran and the United States. The Majlis speaker went on to say that the United States has agreed to return any property proved to belong to Iran, including that of the late shah. Tehran radio only briefly reported Rafsanjani's remarks on the hostages in its English service, citing the speaker as saying he could not predict their release but that the Majlis and the government "will do their job."

In an interview carried by Tehran radio's Arabic service, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i asserted that the "hostage issue is making progress," with Iran "trying to act logically on this issue and to maintain, as much as we can, our basic line toward U.S. imperialism." Raja'i said that "even if we suppose" the hostages will be released "within a short period" of time, Iran will not cease its fight against U.S. "imperialism." Prime Minister Raja'i also announced through Tehran radio that all government ministries and offices and all private firms having claims against the U.S. Government or private U.S. concerns should submit these claims and corroborating evidence to the office of the minister of state for executive affairs within 30 days.

Iran Domestic Affairs

President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and the Islamic Revolution Central Committee warned against "domestic opposition groups and factions" either "Eastern or Western" that intend to try to reopen the universities in Tehran, which were closed last June. In separate announcements carried by Tehran radio, the president and the Central Committee stressed that in the present "sensitive situation" Iran cannot tolerate "any disturbance of law and order," and threatened to arrest and punish any offenders.

Iran Foreign Affairs

The Soviet Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian ambassador in Moscow to hear a statement on the "violation" of the "norms in relations between states ... sanctified by age-old practice and ... international conventions and elementary notions of decency" with regard to the attack on the Soviet Embassy in Tehran in December. According to TASS, the Foreign Ministry statement noted that the Soviet Union "naturally expected" Iran to "unequivocally and resolutely condemn" the perpetrators of the attack, but it has done "nothing of the kind," adding that public statements by Iranian officials describing the attack as "insignificant" "verge upon a direct instigation" for new protests. While emphasizing the Soviet Union's desire for good relations with Iran, the statement warned that if the Iranian Government "does not wish or finds itself unable" to protect Soviet citizens and property, then "no one should have any doubts" that the Soviet Union will protect its "legitimate rights and interests."

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported that Iraqi forces continued to inflict losses on Iranian troops around Pol-e Zahab, Gilan-e Gharb and Susangerd with Iraqi helicopters raiding Iranian positions. Tehran radio reported renewed clashes in the Shatt al-'Arab and Abadan regions and along the Ahvaz-Khuninshahr and Mahshahr-Abadan axes. The radio also noted that the Iranian advance westward has been slowed due to Iraqi minefields.

Israel

Election Date--In interviews with Jerusalem radio, Prime Minister Menahem Begin indicated that elections are likely though not inevitable before November. A majority of the Cabinet, he said, favor early elections, but a "clear decision" on a date will be made only after consultations with the Knesset factions making up the Likud coalition. Begin said that although the government still has "a lot to do," the prevailing "parliamentary reality" has caused the government to consider the possibility of an early election, "one of the proposals" being a June date.

In a related report, the radio said eight Cabinet ministers favor early elections while three, including Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, want the government to attempt to continue its term until November. The radio also reported that the executive of resigning Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz's RAFI faction has decided to withdraw from both the coalition government and the Likud bloc. RAFI Secretariat Chairman Yitzhaq Peretz told the radio that RAFI wants elections as "soon as possible," which it will contest along with "other, additional bodies."

Murder of Arab MK--Following a Jerusalem television report that bedouin MK Hamad abu-Rabi'a was shot dead near a Jerusalem hotel, Jerusalem radio reported that two Galilee Arabs have been arrested in connection with the murder. In a related report the radio revealed that Abu-Rabi'a had claimed that political rivals were seeking to assassinate him.

Jordan

In a wide-ranging interview with the newspaper AR-RA'Y, King Husayn called for an end to the Iran-Iraq war. Agreement must be reached through talks, he said, not only between Iran and Iraq but also between Iran and "other parts of the Arab homeland." The king claimed that the war was "forcibly imposed on Iraq," since Iran was "preparing to strike first" and had interfered in Iraq's internal affairs. King Husayn regretted that those who have accused Iraq of shifting the battle from the western front in Palestine to the eastern front with Iran are "the very ones" who recently forced Jordan to withdraw its armed forces from the south facing the Israelis to the northeast facing Syria. War could easily have broken out between the two countries, the king asserted, following the massing of "huge forces" by Syria on the Jordanian border. The king said he will personally try to restore the trust in Syrian-Jordanian relations although he does not think the two countries' relations will return to "what they used to be."

King Husayn described the recent visit of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to the Middle East as "neither timely, logical nor sound," adding that he feels personally ill at ease about giving the former secretary of state "any role in any new political effort in this region" since "we are still suffering from Henry Kissinger's blunders to this day." Regarding the possibility of visiting the United States, King Husayn said he is ready to go at the "appropriate time." If he receives an official invitation, the king added, "we will consider it and respond to it." Referring to recent statements by Israeli Labor Party leader Shimon Peres on the "Jordanian option," King Husayn said Peres is "trying to drive a wedge between Jordan and the PLO" and "turn one side against the other" in order to divert attention from the "basic issue," which, the king said, is the need for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 008 *13 January 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

'Arafat To Lead Delegation to Islamic Conference A 1
'Arafat Receives 'Important' Message From USSR [VOP] A 1
'Arafat Views Islamic Summit, Arab Relations [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL 10 Jan] A 1
'Arafat Receives Algerian, Iranian Envoys 12 Jan [VOP] A 6

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

Khaddam Delivers Al-Asad Message to Amir C 1
12 Jan Departure C 1

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister Receives Soviet Official C 1

OMAN

Oman, Tanzania Establish Diplomatic Relations C 2

QATAR

Syria's Khaddam Conveys Al-Asad Message to Amir C 2

SAUDI ARABIA

Paper Reports on Islamic Summit Prospects ['UKAZ 8 Jan] C 2
AR-RIYAD Views Brezhnev's Visit to India [5 Jan] C 3
'UKAZ: Reagan Drafting New Middle East Peace Plan [6 Jan] C 4

UAE

Syria's Khaddam Arrives With Message 12 Jan C 5
13 Jan Departure C 5

PDRY

Paper on Kissinger Mideast Tour, U.S. Gulf Policy C 5

EGYPT

UK's Carrington Meets With Officials, Newsmen D 1
As-Sadat, Carrington Remarks D 1
Mubarak, Carrington Remarks D 2
Further Report D 3
Attorney General Questioning Alleged Soviet Spy D 5
Soviet Embassy Employee Seeks Asylum in Cairo D 5
MENA Cites Report on Al-Qadhdhafi Hiring Assassins D 6
Al-Qadhdhafi Said To Threaten To Depose Goukouni D 6
AL-AKHBAR Says Chad-Libya Unity is Soviet Invasion [11 Jan] D 6
As-Sadat Comments on French TV on Egypt, France D 7
Briefs: Suez Gulf Oil Find D 7

IRAQ

Minister Meets With SFRY's Zvone Dragan, Others E 1
Meeting With Ramadan E 1
Protocol Signing E 1
Dragan Departure E 1
Indian External Affairs Under Secretary Arrives E 2
Meeting With Hammadi E 2
Meeting With Oil Minister E 2
Saudi Envoy Arrives With Oral Message for Husayn E 2
Armed Forces Command Issues Communique 213 E 3
Peshmergas, Communists Attack Ba'th Party Building E 3
[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]

JORDAN

King Husayn Interview on Middle East, Gulf War F 1
British MP Arrives in Amman for Political Talks F 8
Moroccan Envoys Leave After Delivering Message F 9
Prime Minister Receives Palestinian Delegation F 9
Jordanian-Palestinian Committee Concludes Meetings F 9
Radio Replies to Syrian Foreign Minister's Speech F 10

LEBANON

Lebanese, PLO Leaders To Arrange Meeting G 1
Command Council Rejects ADF Mandate Renewal G 1
Foreign Minister Discusses Defense Programs [MONDAY MORNING 5-11 Jan] G 1

SYRIA

PDRY Foreign Minister Leaves for Libya 10 Jan H 1
Al-Asad Receives Message From Moroccan King H 1
Envoys' Departure H 1
Khaddam Leaves on Official Trip 11 January H 1
Khaddam on Islamic Summit Attendance, Fedayeen H 2
Khaddam on Reagan's Policy, Other Mideast Issues H 2
Ba'th Party, Greek CP Issue Joint Statement H 3
AL-BA'TH Warns Jordan Against Taking Peace Role R 4

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

APS Views New U.S. Administration, Kissinger Tour I 1
Reportage on Visit by FRG Foreign Minister I 2
Arrival, Abdelghani Audience I 2
Meeting With Christopher I 2
Visit End, Cooperation Agreement I 2
Libya's Jallud Arrives, Received by Bendjedid I 2
Arrival Statement I 3
Bendjedid Reception I 4

LIBYA

Tripoli Reports Activities of Iraqi Front I 4
Paper Attacks French 'Imperialist Interference' I 4
More Embassies Converted Into People's Bureaus I 5
Sri Lanka Embassy I 5
Kenya Embassy I 5

MOROCCO

Guinea's Toure Says OAU Committee To Condemn Libya I 5
Rabat Reports Battles With 'Mercenaries' 7-9 Jan I 5
7-8 Jan Battles I 5
9 Jan Battle I 6

SUDAN

French Defense Ministry Official Arrives I 6

WESTERN SAHARA

Communiques Report Victories Over Moroccans I 7
11 Jan Report I 7

ISRAEL

Reportage on Election Issue, Related Developments N 1
Cabinet Majority N 1
Begin Statement N 1
RAFI Withdrawal N 2
Weizman Position [HA'ARETZ 13 Jan] N 2
Autonomy Negotiations To Resume on 14 Jan N 3
Herzog Briefs As-Sadat on Domestic Issues [MA'ARIV 12 Jan] N 3
Herzog Impressions N 3
Knesset Member Abu-Sabi'a Shot to Death 12 Jan N 4
Further Details N 4
Police Reaction N 4
Qimhi Says Relations With Greece To Be Improved [POST 12 Jan] N 5
Recent Decisions on Kfir Production Reported [HA'ARETZ 13 Jan] N 5

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

African Heads of State Hold Talks on Chad Q 1
Libyan Minister's Arrival Q 1
Initial Discussions Q 1
Nujoma Comments on Progress of Geneva Talks Q 2

EAST AFRICA

SOMALIA

Radio Commentary Denounces Soviet Expansionism R 1
Liberation Forces Report Clashes 1,3 Jan R 2
[Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts]

UGANDA

Delegation Returns From Kenya Trade Talks R 2

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

Goukouni Voices Hostility Toward French Policies S 1

ZAIRE

Inquiry, Discussion Continue in Commissoners' Case S 2
Immunity Rescindments S 2
Central Committee Discussion S 2

WEST AFRICA

IVORY COAST

French Foreign Minister's Departure Comments T 1
[FRATERNITE MATIN 12 Jan]

NIGER

Libyan Diplomatic Personnel Ordered To Leave T 1

NIGERIA

Press Assesses Implications of Libya-Chad Merger T 2

'ARAFAT TO LEAD DELEGATION TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

JN130918 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Text] Damascus, 13 Jan (GNA)--An official Palestinian source was cited here today as saying that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will lead the organization's delegation to the third Islamic summit, which will convene in the holy city of Mecca on 25 January.

The source told GNA in Damascus that the delegation that will accompany 'Arafat will comprise several revolution faction leaders and several Palestine National Council members, as well as Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and PLO official spokesman 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES 'IMPORTANT' MESSAGE FROM USSR

NC080822 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Yesterday the chairman of the PLO's Executive Committee, Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], receive the USSR ambassador in Beirut, Comrade Aleksandr Soldatov.

It has been learned the commander general has received an important message from the Soviet leadership dealing with the current situation in the region and the bilateral relations between the PLO and the Soviet Union--which is supporting the just Palestinian cause and the Palestinian peoples' firm rights, including the right to establish and independent state on its national soil.

'ARAFAT VIEWS ISLAMIC SUMMIT, ARAB RELATIONS

JN111542 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 10 Jan 81 pp 7-11

[interview granted to AL-MUSTAQBAL correspondent As-'ad Haydar by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut on 3 January 1981]

[Excerpts] [Question] Do you think that Israel will use the U.S. interregnum to intensify its attacks and to try eventually to test the Syrian-Soviet defense pact?

[Answer] By the Israeli military operations in southern Lebanon, Begin and the Israeli military clique seek to deal a blow or several successive blows in order to weaken the Palestinian revolution and eventually weaken its political status and role. These operations, which have reached such a degree of violence and ferocity and which we expect to become more fierce in the coming few weeks, are not only aimed at striking the Palestinian revolution. Begin is trying to use them locally, that is, on the Israeli level. He believes that by escalating these battles he can reverse the deteriorating Israeli political and economical situation. In my opinion he wants--though in vain--to place a fait accompli before the U.S. administration with the aim of strengthening his political stand with his American masters in view of what he mistakenly believes are the trends of the forthcoming Israeli Government. I consider Israel merely a watchdog that acts in this region upon the orders of his American master. The recent American statements voiced by U.S. President[-elect] Reagan against the PLO and in support of Israel are only an American green light to Israel to carry on with its scheme.

We have to take into our accounts that by striking the Palestinian revolution forces and the Lebanese-Palestinian joint forces and after the conclusion of the Syrian-Soviet treaty, Israel is thinking of dealing a so-called pre-emptive strike to the Syrian forces, particularly those present in Lebanon.

There is no doubt that the Syrian-Soviet treaty is a new equation which has made the Israeli leadership assess carefully its calculations for any operation from the Golan. Therefore, Israel will concentrate on us and on the Syrian forces working within the Arab Deterrent Forces in Lebanon.

[Question] That is, to strike Syria via Lebanon instead of trying to strike it directly?

[Answer] Exactly, via Lebanon.

[Question] Does that mean that the attempt to strike via Lebanon will demonstrate the scope of the Soviet-Syrian treaty and the extent of commitment to its implementation?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the enemy is trying to test it. It is a dual attempt; that is, it is an American-Israeli attempt, not only Israeli. However, I would like to say with all the fighter's confidence that the PLO, or the revolution, is a hazel nut that is hard to crack and that our flesh is bitter. A brief look will show that during 8 months the enemy carried out 19 big operations, in addition to the daily routine operations the enemy undertakes by land, air and sea. This means an average of 2.5 operations are carried out against us every month.

[Question] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]: It is clear from your words that the Israeli attacks are aimed at testing the treaty. Is there Palestinian-Syrian coordination in this respect?

[Answer] Palestinian-Syrian coordination exists and is continuing. This is not something new. It was there before and after the treaty.

[Question] It has been said by some circles that following its absence from the Amman summit the Lebanese legitimate authority hoped to achieve a Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian understanding that could contribute to restoring calm to Lebanon.

[Answer] I do not think that this was the reason for the Lebanese boycott.

[Question] Is it one of the reasons?

[Answer] The Syrian-Lebanese relationship is strong, as far as I know. The recent visit to Damascus by Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan is evidence of this. Other evidence is the announcement of a meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Sarkis shortly.

[Question] Can this meeting turn into a tripartite meeting attended by yourself, especially since the security conditions are agreeable?

[Answer] Should either of the two presidents ask me to do so, I will be ready to go to Damascus. I welcome such an invitation. Personally, my meetings with President al-Asad are continuing. I wish the security conditions were better so that I could continue meeting with President Sarkis. However, I always send official letters to President Sarkis to place him in the picture of the PLO's political stands on the various issues which concern us on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

[Question] In a few days the Islamic summit will convene in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and an attempt to regain Arab solidarity will be discussed. Do you believe in the possibility of this taking place, and do you have a plan for restoration of this solidarity?

[Answer] According to my information the good offices committee has begun its work, but it has not to date defined or arrived at a tangible result. However, this conference will undoubtedly be attended by all the Arab officials, except for the Egyptians, because it is an Arab-Islamic summit and some meetings which the good offices committee-comprising Saudi Arabia, Algiers and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi--is working to bring about are bound to take place on the side.

[Question] Concerning dialogue with Jordan, what will its fate be, especially since there is a trend within the revolution toward breaking off this dialogue, while another trend within the revolution calls for its continuation to serve the Palestinian destiny?

[Answer] The Palestinian revolution is democratic. There is a national council resolution caling for opening dialogue with Jordan and participating with it in a single committee to support the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the occupied lands. This resolution is in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions. We are committed to these Arab and Palestinian resolutions.

[Question] But what about all that is said about admitting Jordan as a party to Camp David?

[Answer] In such a case developments will be dealt with as they arise. However, one thing must be said: There is unquestionably an attempt to build on Camp David. Moreover, there is an attempt--let us be specific--to concentrate on Jordan during the coming phase through the Israeli Labor Party and also through the program which it has put forward. It is only a matter of time before this Labor Party comes to power and Begin's movement goes. At the same time, U.S. President-elect Ronald Reagan has also spoken of the Jordanian option. Will Jordan agree to become involved in this design against the Palestinian people? Jordan has adhered to the resolutions of the Arab summits in which it participated, including the latest Amman summit. All these summits have rejected Camp David. Recently the Arab foreign ministers conference, held in Amman before the Arab summit, rejected Resolution 242 as unsuitable for negotiations. This is the official Jordanian commitment.

[Question] U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon John Gunther Dean was cited as saying at a special meeting: In its search for a solution for the area, the Reagan administration will jump over the heads of its opponents, that is the PLO, and will give Jordan a merely legal role, thus satisfying Israel and not angering Egypt. What is your opinion about this?

[Answer] I want to say one thing clearly: On behalf of the children who turned the stones of their country into bombs; the legs of Bassam and Karim; the processions which received Karim 2 weeks ago and Bassam today; the determination of Milhim al-Qawasimah and Shaykh at-Tamimi; the heroes at the Ash-Shaqif castle; the heroes who are in prison; the gun and the masses of our Arab nation, I defy them to be able to overlook the Palestinian force in the Middle East formula.

There can be no peace without Palestinian peace, no stability without the stability of the Palestinian people and no security unless the Palestinian people gains its security. There will be no solution in the region without the return of the Palestinian people to its land and unless it establishes its independent state on its national soil. (Abu 'Ammar pauses for a moment, then adds in his Egyptian dialect: Let them try).

They tried through As-Sadat in his capacity as the ruler of the largest Arab country who carried all the weight represented by Egypt. What happened to Camp David? It has reached an impasse because there is only one destiny: the Palestinian destiny. There is one option: the Palestinian option. There is one solution: the Palestinian solution.

[Question] Brother Abu 'Ammar, the Gulf war is taking up a lot of the Arabs' attention, especially since it is taking place with the Muslim ally in Iran.

[Answer] (Abu 'Ammar interrupts): Allow me to correct you. It is a war of brothers, not of allies. Therefore, we are undertaking efforts and good offices to stop it. I can say that the nonaligned committee's meeting sprang from the Palestinian initiative at Belgrade, and we have agreed to meet in New Delhi next month, but meanwhile we have carried on our work. I visited Iraq and then received speaker of the Islamic Majlis in Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani. Following these meetings we were able to achieve a degree of success in our good offices and efforts, namely confining the fire. When the Iranian raid on Al-'Abdali in Kuwait occurred, I received assurances from Iranian President Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr that the raid had been a mistake.

[Question] A military mistake.

[Answer] No, not a military mistake, but a mistake. The important thing is that the Iranians have no wish to expand the war. When I met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, I brought up this subject with him. Moreover, in the press conference which he held in Beirut, he mentioned that he was against expanding the fighting in the area. We feel that our good offices succeeded in limiting the area of the fighting. We are continuing our other measures to stop the fighting. We put forward several points to both parties on this subject.

[Question] Were these points accepted?

[Answer] They are in the process of being studied.

[Question] I heard that this plan includes two points: that Iran announce its acceptance of negotiations with Iraq, and that Iraq announce its readiness to withdraw from Iranian territory and particularly from the Shatt al-'Arab.

[Answer] We prefer not to talk about these points. Let's leave deeds speak for themselves particularly regarding such sensitive issues. We are carrying out a strategic action that deals with the security of the area. This war is like setting fire to one's own home. Unless we extinguish this fire, we face the danger of the entire area being Balkanized. that is what made me go twice to Iran and Baghdad despite my illness.

[Question] In your opinion, do you think that the main danger is the Balkanization of the area?

[Answer] If this war continues, it will undoubtedly expose the area to serious dangers, including Balkanization.

[Question] The Gulf war is in face a very critical subject. But to be precise, are the points which I have mentioned true or not?

[Answer] You cannot draw me out any further on this subject.

[Question] U.S. President Reagan's administration seems to be a supporter of "the militarization of U.S. diplomacy." How will the Palestinian revolution deal with this administration particularly since the U.S. President-elect before entering the White House has called on the PLO to abandon terrorism, as he termed it?

[Answer] I say to the U.S. administration: If it continues to follow the same plan as Carter's, it faces a deadend. This administration will not benefit from a beautification of Camp David. No U.S. administration will be able to impose anything less than the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, the return to their land and the establishment of their independent state.

[Question] Currently, there is an Arab call for opening a dialogue with U.S. President Reagan. What do you think of that?

[Answer] The Arabs are called on to use all their weapons. And we possess enormous weapons. We possess our military, economic, demographic, financial and oil power as well as our strategic position. We are witnessing a deteriorating Arab situation, but these words will not weaken our determination. Actually, these words will increase our responsibilities. I consider this stage through which our Arab nation is passing as the labor pains which precede the great birth of this nation. This is an unshakable conviction.

[Question] It is clear that you are optimistic regarding the return of the Egyptian people to the Arab family. Yet, how can Egypt be restored by this enormous Arab weapon?

[Answer] I have complete confidence in the Egyptian people. I'll give you one example on that, the failure of Navon's visit to Egypt. Today, I met with the AAPSO committee in Egypt comprising several national Egyptian figures who came to join the Palestinian revolution's will of combat and to express the cohesion between the Egyptian people and the Palestinian revolution. Egypt will return. The Egyptians are like the Nile that looks so still and beautiful on the surface but in flood season washes away everything before it.

[Question] Has the European intiative died before being born, Brother Abu 'Ammar?

[Answer] Is there any European initiative in the first place?

[Question] There were some talks about it.

[Answer] Until now, there is no European initiative. There is European political talk. There is a European attempt carried out by some European states whose economic interests differed from the U.S. economic interests. This is an important point. These states are trying to find themselves a political and economic status through adopting this policy. When [Gaston] Thorn came, I asked him: Do you have an initiative? You could not hold to your Venice statement, not even for a fortnight, because you did not succeed in proposing it at the NATO conference. Muskie said during that conference: "I have succeeded in not mentioning the Palestinian people." Therefore, I say that our hearts are open to any positive step by any source. If such a political initiative is raised, then we will study it among the Palestinian leadership.

[Question] You had intended to visit France, but no one is mentioning this visit any longer. Have you cancelled it?

[Answer] This visit is out of the question now. Don't forget that France is one the threshold of presidential elections.

[Question] How are political relations with France?

[Answer] Our relations with France are improving. You recall that my emissary has conveyed a message to the Elysee and that Brother Abu al-Luft [Faruq Qaddumi] has more than once met with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet. We continue to further improve the relations.

[Question] This is on the European level. Regarding the Asian level, represented by Japan, why has there been no advance on the political level particularly regarding the Arabs' first cause of Palestine, despite the fact that Japan has excellent economic relations with the Arab states?

[Answer] A Japanese delegation and a Japanese parliamentary delegation have visited me recently and I have been invited to visit Japan. I will accept this invitation at the first opportunity and I hope that this visit will bear fruit.

[Question] You were cited as saying that 1981 and 1982 will witness the Palestinian harvest season, while some Arab officials see more difficulties and troubles arising this year. What is you forecast?

[Answer] I called last year the year of the revolutionary outburst. This year is the year of the Palestinian option, the will and the epic.

[Question] Will 1982 witness the birth of the Palestinian state?

[Answer] It is very difficult for revolutions, especially for the Palestinian revolution which is fighting on more than one front, to set fixed dates. But I am confident that the darker night becomes, the closer is dawn. I am also confident that the Palestinian people are about to achieve their objective in establishing their independent state on their national Palestinian oil.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES ALGERIAN, IRANIAN ENVOYS 12 JAN

NC121657 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] At noon today Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, received Algerian Ambassador in Beirut Brother Mustafa Hashmawi. Several Arab topics, including Palestinian-Algerian relations, were discussed during the meeting. It was learned that Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the Algerian ambassador to convey an oral message to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid dealing with the current situation.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also received an envoy of the Iranian president. The envoy is Brother Rashid Sadr, director of the Political Bureau of Iranian President Bani-Sadr. The meeting dealt with the current situation. Brother Abu 'Ammar asked the Iranian envoy to convey an oral message to Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr.

BAHRAIN

KHADDAM DELIVERS AL-ASAD MESSAGE TO AMIR

JN121021 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0915 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Manama, 12 Jan (GNA)--The Bahraini amir, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, received 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, here this morning.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah and Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah.

The Syrian minister conveyed a message to the Bahraini amir from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on bilateral relations, current Arab developments and preparations for the Islamic summit, which will convene in Mecca on 25 January.

12 Jan Departure

JN121120 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0920 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Manama, 12 Jan (GNA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, left Manama for Doha this morning at the end of a 1-day visit to Bahrain.

Khaddam was seen off by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and top Bahraini officials.

The Syrian minister is currently touring several Arab states and conveying messages to these states' leaders from the Syrian president. Khaddam has so far visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain.

KUWAIT

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET OFFICIAL

LD101552 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1239 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Jan (KUNA)--Oleg Grinevskiy, chief of the Near Eastern countries department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, had a meeting here today with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Kuwait Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah and discussed with him Soviet proposals to keep the Gulf region out of international conflicts.

Grinevskiy is visiting Kuwait during a tour to the Gulf with the aim of explaining the Soviet Union's stance vis-a-vis a number of international issues.

The tour comes before the Islamic summit conference to be held in Mecca at the end of this month.

An official spokesman has stated that the Soviet visitor also discussed bilateral relations with Shaykh Sabah.

No other details are available on what was discussed at the meeting, attended by Under Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Rashid ar-Rashid and the Soviet ambassador here.

During his visit to India in December President Leonid Brezhnev proposed to the major powers to make the Pacific [as received] Ocean and the Gulf regions zones of peace and to keep them out of international conflicts.

OMAN

OMAN, TANZANIA ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

LD100414 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 9 Jan 81 EA

[Text] The following joint statement has been issued in Muscat and Dar es Salaam:

Out of a desire to strengthen the already existing ties of friendship between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania, the Sultanate of Oman and the United Republic of Tanzania have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. The exchange of ambassadors will take place soon.

QATAR

SYRIA'S KHADDAM CONVEYS AL-ASAD MESSAGE TO AMIR

GF121100 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] The amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, received a written message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The message was conveyed by Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam when the amir received him at his office in the Ad-Dawhah palace at 1130 today.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani and Syrian charge d'affaires in Doha 'Abd ar-Rahman Ra'dun.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has learned that the message deals with issues of common interest, the Arab situation in general and the forthcoming Islamic summit conference in particular, and ways of strengthening bilateral relations.

Khaddam arrived in Doha from Manama shortly before he was received by the amir on a short visit to Qatar as part of his current tour of countries of the area. He was received at Doha international airport by Shakyh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry Ahmad Jasim al-Mulla and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Doha.

SAUDI ARABIA

PAPER REPORTS ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT PROSPECTS

LD120815 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 8 Jan 81 p 1

[Nasir ash-Shahri report]

[Text] Well-informed sources have confirmed to 'UKAZ that neither Egypt nor Afghanistan will attend the Islamic summit and that neither has been invited, since their membership of the Islamic Conference Organization has been suspended. The sources said that the suspension will remain in effect until the reasons for it are removed.

The sources said that the decision to exclude Egypt came following its reconciliation with Israel, and the decision to exclude Afghanistan came following the Soviet invasion of the country and the establishment of a Soviet puppet regime there against the Afghan people's will.

The source was replying to questions being raised about inviting the two countries to the summit.

'UKAZ has also learned from well-informed sources that a joint meeting of representatives of the Islamic Conference secretariat and the Arab League will discuss at the league's headquarters in Tunis today the question of Libya's participation in the Mecca Islamic summit in the light of information that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi will not personally attend the conference. The sources said that the meeting will also discuss the form and nature of the Libyan representation at the summit.

The sources said that the Islamic countries attending the summit will shortly clarify the level of their attendance. Efforts are now being made to ensure that all countries, including Iran, attend the summit at a high level so that positive results can be achieved, in view of the fact that it is the first summit to be held in the present circumstances, which call for deciding on many outstanding issues and settling peripheral differences between Arab League member-states, in order to achieve a degree of Arab cooperation that will contribute to realizing our higher objectives.

Full coordination is now being carried out between the Arab League and the Islamic Conference Organization for this purpose.

AR-RIYAD VIEWS BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO INDIA

LD091615 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 5 Jan 81 p 2

[Jasir al-Jasir article: "Brezhnev's Bribe for the Lady of India"]

[Excerpts] Soviet television could not find happy scenes to show its viewers on Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev's recent visit to India. On the popular level Brezhnev faced noisy demonstrators who shouted hostile slogans and burned the Soviet flag while on the political level the Kremlin leader was unable to convince the lady of India to publicly support the Soviet presence in Afghanistan.

Since Soviet popularity in Angola, Ethiopia and Vietnam has dwindled it was necessary to head south in search of popularity. The Kremlin leaders thought that India is a ripe fruit.

But the curse of Afghanistan, which aroused the world against Moscow, accompanied Brezhnev to New Delhi. Brezhnev discovered that India is not the same as it was 7 years ago when he visited it for the first time.

When the Soviet forces poured into Afghanistan the Soviets were pleased with Mrs Gandhi's soft stand on the invasion and her desire not to attack the Russians publicly although she then expressed regret. Mrs Gandhi's stand seemed strange to the world but those close to her said that she based her stand on the understanding that the Soviet invasion would end in a few weeks after which it would leave in Kabul a government that would not be so openly under Soviet control and would join the nonaligned world. But what happened was exactly the opposite. Kabul became quite distant from the principles of nonalignment because of losing its independence and territorial integrity and security. Subsequent developments forced the lady of India to change her attitude toward the Soviet invasion.

The strong Islamic revival which rejected the Soviet invasion had a deep impact on India in general and Indian Muslims in particular. The Islamic countries' anti-Soviet stands began to influence India's attitude, for the Indian Muslims had a major say in the Indian lady's return to power after her previous defeat. She therefore does not wish to lose these votes which are of great importance in any elections. India is surrounded by two major Islamic states that are totally in favor of Afghanistan's independence. With regard to the outstanding problems between India and Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi seems to be anxious to settle them but her attitude toward the Soviet invasion has further delayed this settlement.

All these developments forced Mrs Gandhi to tell Brezhnev openly that India is against foreign intervention in Afghanistan and that foreign troops must be withdrawn so the Afghan people can decide their own fate.

It is true that the Russians tried to bribe India with oil and arms in return for its stand, but Mrs Gandhi found the deal too costly.

In the face of this Indian firmness Brezhnev proposed what he called "Gulf peace and security." The idea might appeal to Mrs Gandhi as she has long been calling for the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean, but it is difficult for her to openly join Brezhnev's plan which has met with strong opposition by the Islamic countries in general and the Arab countries in particular.

Despite all this it is difficult to say that Indian-Soviet relations will deteriorate because of Afghanistan. These relations are backed by a treaty of friendship that ensures a great deal for India. For India, whose hand is always stretched out for Soviet arms and oil, is not in a position to undermine these relations and the Soviet Union, while facing this international isolation, will not sacrifice India with its vast population and prominent international standing.

'UKAZ: REAGAN DRAFTING NEW MIDDLE EAST PEACE PLAN

LD091715 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 6 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] Washington--'UKAZ has learned from well-informed sources in Washington that President-elect Ronald Reagan is working on drafting a new peace plan for the Middle East.

The sources told 'UKAZ that Reagan will base his plan in several basic facts he learned from Senator Charles Percy, his envoy to Moscow, who stated in the Soviet capital that he does not object to PLO participation in the peace talks.

The sources add that Percy's statement was only a feeler put out to the Soviet Union and an attempt to involve it in formulating a solution for the Middle East problem, so that it will not once again resort to mischief and ruin the new U.S. solution.

However, Arab sources in the U.S. capital told 'UKAZ that Reagan's peace plan will be announced only after he assumes his constitutional powers on 20 January. He will devote at least 3 months to tackling the economic situation and dealing with confronting Soviet influence in the world. It is probably while dealing with this confrontation that he will study the Middle East problem. But these sources do not rule out the possibility that during his visit to Egypt and Israel Kissinger persuaded both sides of the need for Jordan's participation in the talks in accordance with the Jordanian views, as this would enable the new U.S. administration to submit its new plan to all the parties.

The well-informed quarters here also do not rule out the possibility that behind-the-scenes dialogue is going on between Washington and Moscow on the nature of the new U.S. plan, which proposes the participation of the United States, the Soviet Union, Waldheim, a European representative, an Arab representative, and an Israeli representative in the anticipated meeting.

UAE

SYRIA'S KHADDAM ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE 12 JAN

JN121812 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1805 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 Jan (GNA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha today on a short visit to the UAE as part of his tour of several Arab Gulf countries.

The Syrian minister will deliver a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the current Arab situation, the forthcoming Islamic summit and bilateral relations.

13 Jan Departure

JN130836 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0750 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Jan (GMA)--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Abu Dhabi this morning at the end of a 1-day visit to the UAE, concluding his tour of several countries in the area.

Khaddam delivered a message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on bilateral relations and current Arab circumstances.

He was seen off by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah, several UAE officials and Syrian charge d'affaires in the UAE Mukhlis Far'un.

The Syrian minister's tour included Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain. During his tour he delivered messages from President al-Asad to the leaders of these countries.

PDRY

PAPER ON KISSINGER MIDEAST TOUR, U.S. GULF POLICY

LD101944 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Jan 81 EA

[Text] ATH-THAWRI had this to say in today's editorial entitled "Security for the Gulf or Security for U.S. Interests?":

The visits of Henry Kissinger, one of the top men in U.S. Middle East policy, and the declarations, not new to U.S. policy, made during these visits confirm that the region is vital to U.S. interests and demonstrates the desire of the United States to widen the range of its military expansion. The visits put the final touches to the American-Zionist-reactionary conspiratorial design aimed basically at liquidating the Palestinian cause, imposing a U.S. solution on the Middle East question, reviving suspect aggressive schemes connected with the security of the Gulf and the Red Sea, and making final preparations for U.S. aggression against the region by means of the so-called Rapid Deployment Force.

The visits also come in the wake of an intensive preparatory propaganda campaign launched by the reactionary U.S. media claiming the existence of a threat to the region from the USSR, the PDRY and socialist Ethiopia. The propaganda campaign increased in ferocity after Soviet leader Brezhnev announced his peace initiative on Gulf security and the Indian Ocean in which he reaffirmed the peaceful Soviet stand and at the same time exposed the U.S. imperialist stand, its local props in the region and the false allegations being publicized as a prelude to the anticipated aggression.

Everybody knows that the question of Gulf security has been of primary importance to U.S. imperialism for about 13 years, in fact, ever since Britain announced its withdrawal from the Gulf region. Because the United States was preoccupied with the Vietnam war at that time, it could not fill the vacuum left by Britain and compensated for lack of direct military presence by what was called during the Nixon administration the Vietnamization of the Gulf, meaning that local puppets equipped with the latest U.S. weapons would carry out the duties of watching over U.S. interests on its behalf.

Reactionary circles were active in setting up the suspect Gulf security scheme, but a number of factors prevented its realization. The most important of these was the existence of certain mutual differences in reactionary circles themselves and the decisive resistance to the scheme by the Arab masses and their progressive and nationalist forces in the region, in particular in the PDRY, which exposed the objectives of the scheme. As a result of the difficulties facing the scheme, the U.S. defeat in Vietnam, the withdrawal of its forces from that country and the emergence of certain developments disadvantageous to the forces of the right and Arab reactionaries, the idea of the Vietnamization of the Gulf vanished, making way for the Carter doctrine which stipulated direct U.S. intervention by means of the Rapid Deployment Force.

The idea of U.S. intervention in the Gulf region is not prompted by false allegations about Soviet threats and other allegations, but is an old U.S. colonialist idea that was passed through several preparatory stages to reach this latest stage. It is an idea above all aimed at safeguarding U.S. exploitative interests in the region and ensuring security for the satellites of U.S. imperialism, the principal enemy of the Arab peoples and the greatest plunderer of their oil resources.

Those colluding with the aggressive plans of the United States ought to realize that their collusion will not help them escape the punishment of the Arab masses. Let the Arab struggle, especially that of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, rise to the level of the looming dangers threatening the interests of our struggling peoples.

UK'S CARRINGTON MEETS WITH OFFICIALS, NEWSMEN

As-Sadat, Carrington Remarks

NC122036 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Aswan, 12 Jan (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has stressed the importance of the European role in the Middle East negotiations and described it as a fundamental and basic role. President as-Sadat expressed his satisfaction with the results of the discussions he had today with British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, saying that they were very important. This came at the press conference which the president and Lord Carrington held after the 1 and 1/2-hour discussion they had today. Mrs Jihan as-Sadat, Lady Carrington and the ambassadors to each other's country attended the press conference.

President as-Sadat opened the press conference by making a statement in Arabic in which he said: It gives me pleasure to say that I have enjoyed to the utmost this meeting with Lord Carrington. We discussed all problems in our area, primarily the Arab-Israeli problem, the Middle East, international situation and bilateral relations.

I was very pleased. The discussion with Lord Carrington was most enjoyable. I take this opportunity on behalf of our people and on my own behalf to thank him and Britain for the stand of understanding between ourselves and for the spirit of constructive cooperation in all spheres, particularly for Carrington's personality in this. I welcome him. I was very happy with this meeting and wish him a successful trip and a good stay with us.

President as-Sadat then translated his statement into English for the benefit of Lord Carrington.

In reply, Carrington made a statement in which he said: Gentlemen: I cannot say anything other than that I support and agree with everything President as-Sadat has said: We did not speak at length about bilateral relations, because there are no pending problems between us.

Carrington said: It was not possible a few years ago to hold bilateral talks between us because of many difficulties; but now, thanks to President as-Sadat and the spirit of peace, I come to Egypt in the atmosphere of friendship and admiration which I hold for Egypt and the president personally. We had good talks on the complicated problems in the world, the Middle East and North Africa. I shall discuss this with the prime minister and the discussion will be very valuable until we see President as-Sadat in London soon.

Carrington then answered a question on his talks with President as-Sadat by saying: I have said all I had to say at press conferences. However, I shall leave my discussin with the president to the president himself.

President as-Sadat was asked about his view of the European initiative and what he could do in the coming phase. He said: I have informed my friend Lord Carrington of all my ideas and views on this subject. I believe that the European role is very important and fundamental. However, I shall not talk to you about the details.

Carrington then answered a question on his view on Jerusalem being a main topic in the Arab-Israeli conflict and about the EEC's role in this by saying: We have discussed a number of papers pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Netherlands foreign minister, in his capacity as the EEC chairman, will be visiting the Middle East and America soon, and we shall talk about Jerusalem with the parties concerned; the EEC will be able to put forward some ideas.

Asked if he will personally carry out an important role in the Middle East problem after he assumes the chairmanship of the European Community in July, due to his prominent and outstanding personality, Lord Carrington said: Each of the EEC foreign ministers has a strong and outstanding personality.

Asked how the Palestinians can be made to participate in the peace process, particularly after the change which has emerged as a result of Israel's stand on their participation, Lord Carrington said: The way to this is that the Palestinians should accept the two principles mentioned in the Venice declaration and that Israel should do the same. It would then be possible to find a solution to this problem. Answering a question, Carrington confirmed that the problem of Afghanistan was discussed during his talk with the president.

President as-Sadat then gave a warm farewell to Lord Carrington. Egyptian journalists then gathered around his excellency who answered their questions.

Their first question related to the discussions which his excellency held yesterday with the Somali vice president. The president said that they were very important discussions.

The president was then asked: Will Egypt participate in the Lome conference on the Chadian problem? He answered: "We have been invited to this conference and we shall go and have our say." Answering a question on Britain's attitude toward the problem of Chad, the president said: "It is identical to our attitude."

Asked if he will visit Britain soon, the president said: "If circumstances permit, God willing, particularly if the new U.S. administration invites me to visit the United States."

In answer to another question, the president emphasized that his discussions with Lord Carrington are among the best discussions he enjoyed.

Asked his attitude toward the European initiative, the president said: "Have stated my opinion in full detail and all clarity on each point."

The president was asked: Could you elaborate? He laughingly said: "Not a word."

Mubarak, Carrington Remarks

NC121348 Cairo MENA in English 1334 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)--Vice President Husni Mubarak received today British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, currently visiting here. The meeting, which lasted for one and a half hours, was attended by Egyptian Ambassador in London Hasan Abu Sa'dam and the British ambassador here Michel Scott Weir.

Vice President Husni Mubarak told newsmen following his meeting with Lord Carrington that they discussed all topics related to the Middle East, particularly the Palestinian cause. They also discussed problems in Chad, Libya, Iraq and Iran, the Arab situation in general, the present blunders in Syria and Iraq, the merger between Syria and Libya, and the attitude of Algeria.

Answering a query whether the vice president underlined definite broadlines as towards Egypt's stance vis-a-vis the European initiative, Mubarak said he discussed with Lord Carrington the broadlines of this initiative but have not dwelt on definite points. They only discussed prospects that this initiative be effective and have a positive effect and should not only become a peace initiative with no effect. Mubarak added he believed Carrington will discuss this issue with President as-Sadat today.

Answering a question on whether Mubarak expounded during his meeting with Carrington Egypt's stance regarding the autonomy negotiations and how to resume talks and achieve the overall settlement, especially after the obstacles raised by Israel before the negotiations, Mubarak stressed that Egypt's stance is explicit and was previously announced more than once. Concerning the negotiations, Mubarak said that we do not expect progress in the negotiations at present as the new American administration has not taken over yet. The situation in Israel is explicit and we do not want to speak of others' domestic affairs.

In replying to a question on whether there is anything new in the Egyptian-American contacts, Mubarak said that there is nothing new but contacts will be resumed after the American president-elect takes oath.

Answering a question on whether Mubarak expects the African summit conference to offer a solution for the Chadian problem, the Egyptian vice president said he does not expect the conference to settle the crisis of Chad because it has its particular aspect as the Libyan forces have entered Chad and imposed unity on a government that has no power to sign unity for it is an interim government till elections take place and a head of government is elected. Mubarak further pointed out that all this is a violation of the African summit conference resolutions as African leaders have convened and decided that the Chadian president came only to hold the elections.

Mubarak had inaugurated the press conference by welcoming the British foreign secretary, and paid tribute to the excellent relations existing between Egypt and Britain, and also highlighted the British support and appreciation of all steps adopted by President Anwar as-Sadat as regards the Mideast crisis.

Mubarak went on to say that Lord Carrington will meet today with President as-Sadat, adding that further information will be released following the meeting.

In his address, Lord Carrington said he had nothing much to add to what the vice president has said except express his gratitude for this invitation, which afforded him an opportunity to visit Egypt and meet with President as-Sadat and Vice President Mubarak. In reply to a query on Britain's stance vis-a-vis the Libyan interference in Chad, Lord Carrington said his country has already deplored the recent Libyan interference in Chad. On whether today's meeting dealt with the EEC initiative and the Middle East, Mubarak said they did not expand much on the issue.

Further Report

NC121708 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)--British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington has praised Egypt's home and foreign policies under President Anwar as-Sadat. He paid tribute to the continuous progress in Egyptian-British relations, particularly since the visit to Britain by President as-Sadat in 1975. Addressing a press conference in Cairo today, Lord Carrington condemned the foreign military intereference in Chad, saying that this interference constituted a threat to the security of the area and should be dealt with within an African framework on the basis that it is a matter which threatens the African Continent.

Lord Carrington expressed his hope that the African summit conference which will convene in Lome, the capital of Togo, tomorrow within the OAU frameowrk, will reach a solution to the problem. He also expressed his belief that the EEC states will debate the Chadian issue at their foreign minister-level meeting within the next few weeks.

At his press conference, Lord Carrington praised President Anwar as-Sadat's stand on the Soviet aggression against the Afghan people saying that during the discussions he held with the Egyptian officials, there was full agreement that the only solution to this question is the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and reaching a peaceful agreement based on the realization of the wishes of the Afghan people.

Answering a question on the current Middle East peace efforts, Lord Carrington pointed out that the EEC declaration on the Middle East, which was issued in Venice, is based on two principles: The first is that there must be a recognition of the right of all states to live within secure borders, and the second is that Israel must recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. He said that these principles are essential to the finding of a solution to the problem. He also expressed his belief that if all parties accept these principles, then vital progress would be made.

Lord Carrington added: As much as I hope that Israel would recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, I also hope that the Palestinians and the PLO would recognize Israel and its security, because this is vital to a durable peace agreement.

Answering a question on the autonomy negotiations and the European role, Lord Carrington said that the aim of the European discussions and the points mentioned in the Venice declaration on the Middle East is to turn the European efforts into a helping factor, and it is not to interfere in the current discussions.

He added: We only want to help and put to good use our good relations with and knowledge of the Arab world to find a way that would help the current efforts. Lord Carrington pointed out that Gaston Thorn, the chairman of the previous EEC session, had held discussions on behalf of the community with the parties concerned and that more such discussions will be held to know further details such as what does the right for self-determination mean, what does security mean and how can it be established and what about the PLO? He said that the Netherlands foreign minister, who is the chairman of the current EEC session, will continue the contacts with the parties concerned to learn their answers to these vital questions. He expressed his belief that Europe's helping role cannot be defined before all this becomes known.

Asked about the European contacts with the PLO, Lord Carrington said that all the European states have contacts with the PLO and that a British official has recently met with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Beirut. He added that it is sensible to listen to the view of any group of persons representing any idea or color, "as happened during the Zimbabwe discussions when I met with all the sides and parties. This way, we can prove goodwill."

Lord Carrington answered a question whether he believed that the establishment of a government-in-exile representing the PLO could help reach a solution to the crisis. The British minister said that he did not believe that this would help.

Asked whether he or the European Community has a formula for the participation of the Palestinians in the peace discussions, Lord Carrington said that there is no such formula yet but that Europe is deeply and thoroughly interested in the Middle East problem. He expressed his belief that the European states might be able to come out with something before the end of this year to push forward the peace efforts.

To a question about Jordan's participation in the peace negotiations, Lord Carrington said that the solution must come from the parties concerned within the area and that those who are outside the area are helping factors only.

Asked about the danger of closing the Hormuz Strait, the British foreign secretary, Lord Carrington, said that the danger exists and it is the Iraqi-Iranian war.

On military cooperation between Britain and Egypt, Lord Carrington said that close relations in the military field exist between the two countries. He hoped that there will be more cooperation in the field of military industrialization in the future.

At the end of his press conference, the British foreign secretary praised Egyptian-British relations in all fields. He pointed out that Britain is considered Egypt's second market, because the trade balance between the two countries is truly balanced. He said that Britain is currently implementing several projects in Egypt and that it will implement several others in the next few days, including the natural gas project which will supply natural gas to houses in some areas in Cairo for the first time and the Cairo utilities development project.

ATTORNEY GENERAL QUESTIONING ALLEGED SOVIET SPY

NC130914 Cairo MENA In Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)--AL-AKHBAR newspaper reports today that the supreme state security prosecution is continuing its questioning of the Soviet employee of the trade representation in Cairo who was arrested on charges of espionage. The paper says that attorney general of the state security prosecution office Raja' al-'Arabi, who ordered the arrest of the Soviet employee, is currently questioning him about the charges leveled against him and about his contact with some employees to secure information. The paper adds that this questioning is expected to be concluded within 2 days. Then the attorney general's office will announce the results of the investigation.

SOVIET EMBASSY EMPLOYEE SEEKS ASYLUM IN CAIRO

NC130833 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jan (MENA)--Egypt has granted political asylum to an employee of the Soviet Embassy in Cairo after he had asked for asylum in Egypt and protection from Soviet harassment.

AL-AHRAM newspaper reports today that (Vladislav Kharlov), 59, who works in the trade representation department of the Soviet Embassy in Cairo, went to the offices of AL-AHRAM newspaper at noon, yesterday. He maintained a working relationship with the magazine distribution administration and told the AL-AHRAM management of his decision. He asked the management to help him inform the responsible authorities that he was afraid for his life because of Soviet harassment.

The Soviet employee told the AL-AHRAM newspaper that he began his work in the embassy in May 1979 after he was transferred from the Foreign Trade Ministry to work in the Soviet Government's publishing institution in Cairo. He said that he was subjected to strong censure and continuous pressure by Soviet Embassy officials after there was a big slump in the distribution of Soviet publications in Egypt. He added that he took his decision to seek asylum in Egypt on his own free will and out of the conviction that he is not implicated in any case, offense or investigation in the embassy or in any other place.

The Soviet employee has two children working in Moscow, one of them named (Aleksandr), 25, working as a driver. He is married and has a 1-year-old daughter. The other son is named (Viktor), 21, who is studying in the Moscow Institute for Bibliography.

MENA CITES REPORT ON AL-QADHDHAFI HIRING ASSASSINS

NC122056 Cairo MENA in English 1708 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Paris, 12 Jan (MENA)--The Libyan authorities are contracting a number of international terrorists and members of the Mafia for liquidating the Libyans opposing the regime of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi abroad, according to a statement issued here today by the Libyan Free Officers. The Free Officers said that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi (?declared) that he will pay one hundred thousand pounds sterling for the assassination of any of his political opponents. The statement said that these terrorist accords are coupled with the actions of the gangs of the revolutionary committees the pursue and assassinate any opponents to the tyranny of Al-Qadhdhafi.

AL-QADHDHAFI SAID TO THREATEN TO DEPOSE GUOKOUNI

NC121942 Cairo MENA in English 1910 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 12 Jan (MENA)--Well-informed sources here have alleged that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya had forced Goukouni Oueddei, the head of government of the Chadian provisional government, to sign the declaration of the Chadian-Libyan merger. Revealing new details concerning the merger, the sources pointed out that Al-Qadhdhafi threatened Goukouni to replace him by another president, who might be Acyl Ahmat, the foreign minister of the provisional government, if he were to reject to sign the merger declaration.

Al-Qadhdhafi severely reproved Goukouni, when the latter enquired about the date of the Libyan troops' withdrawal from Chad, and also when he asked him for substantial financial assistance on grounds that the sums he had received from Al-Qadhdhafi were no match to the devastation which Chad was suffering at present, the sources said. They added that when Al-Qadhdhafi heard Goukouni's demands he got furious and their relations became strained, to the extent members of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Galloud, Abu Bakr Yunis and Mustafa al-Kharrubi had to intervene to persuade Goukouni to sign the merger declaration.

AL-AKHBAR SAYS LIBYA-CHAD UNITY IS SOVIET INVASION

LD131015 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 11 Jan 81 p 6

[Excerpts] The merger unity that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi wants to impose on the Chadian people is unlike any known unity to which the political definition of 'merger' or 'unity' applies. Rather, it is clearly an annexation [of Chad] or an extension of Libya into the heart of Africa. If we bear in mind that Libya is a base for Soviet action in the area, then we realize that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is the tool of Marxist-communist action and that Chad has become an extension of Libya and therefore under their [the Soviet] control, the target of their designs, and a location from which they will move into the heart of Africa on a large scale.

This was clear from the beginning; it was the Soviets who made the arrangements, drew up the plans and carried out their implementation. Those who laid down the invasion plans were Soviet and East German experts and the troops that Al-Qadhdhafi sent to Chad were Cubans, east Germans and other mercenaries whom the Soviet advisers trained at Al-Qadhdhafi's camps in Libya, financed by Libya's oil money. Al-Qadhdhafi does not have enough troops to maintain security within his country's borders. The 5,000 troops that entered Chad were not Libyans but Soviets or their surrogates. Also the unity which Al-Qadhdhafi is imposing on Chad is nothing but a Soviet move and in its real sense it is only a consolidation of the communist-Marxist presence in that Islamic country.

The invasion of Chad is exactly the same as the Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan with the difference only in magnitude. In this operation Al-Qadhdhafi plays the same agent role that Karmal played in Afghanistan. Al-Qadhdhafi's role in this is probably even worse because he has committed a more abominable crime. Not only did he surrender his country to the Soviets to be a base for them from which they move toward achieving their objectives in Africa but also his loyalty and subservience have also prompted him to consolidate the communist presence in an Islamic country, Chad.

From the legal aspect the unity between Libya and Chad which Al-Qadhdhafi proclaimed is not legitimate in any way. Al-Qadhdhafi, who proclaimed it, has no legal status empowering him to do so for he is only a tool or a cat's-paw. There is no ruler in Chad who is regarded by his people as legitimate or enjoys any amount of freedom, not even the freedom to speak for himself. The Chadian people, by virtue of this invasion, have lost their freedom and independence and therefore are not in a position to determine their fate.

We wonder: Should not the Islamic countries throughout the Islamic world out of their Islamic duty and brotherhood adopt a stand against the communist and Marxist presence in an Islamic country--namely Chad?

AS-SADAT COMMENTS ON FRENCH TV ON EGYPT, FRANCE

NC122201 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Paris, 12 Jan (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat has expressed the hope that relations between Egypt and France will become as strong as when they were flourishing in the last century. He said: "The relations between the two countries during that period were strong and based on culture."

In a statement broadcast on French television, President as-Sadat pointed out that despite British occupation of Egypt in the last century, the primary foreign language in Egypt was the French language until World War II.

The French television broadcast President as-Sadat's statement when it showed a film on its second channel last night. The French viewer stayed up with him for 1 whole hour on the occasion of the centennial of the formation of the French institute for antiquities--the ceremony which the wife of the French President Giscard d'Estaing attended 2 days ago.

The film dealt with the Egyptian-French cultural relations, particularly in the sphere of antiquities and pharaonic scenes. The French Institute for Antiquities is aimed at being an institute for all the Middle East and not for Egypt alone. It also aims, according to the commentator, at reactivating the history of Egypt--not only pharaonic Egypt, but Islamic and Coptic Egypt over the centuries.

BRIEFS

SUEZ GULF OIL FIND--Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)--Deputy Premier for Production Sector and Oil Minister Dengineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal announced a new oil find in the region of the Gulf of Suez struck by the American Mobil Oil Company. In a press conference here this afternoon, Hilal said the new offshore find, which lies south of the Gulf of Suez where it meets with the Red Sea to the east of Al-Ghurdaqah, boasts an output of 3,200 barrels per day according to primary results. One of the advantages of the new find is that it lies at a short distance from the shore. The new find is at 40800 feet from the shallow waters and lies near the Red Sea shore which facilitates oil transport. [Excerpt] [Cairo MENA in English 1455 GMT 12 Jan 81 NC]

MINISTER MEETS WITH SFRY'S ZVONE DRAGAN, OTHERS

JN101847 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Text] Public Works and Housing Minister Muhammad Fadil today received Zvone Dragan, Yugoslav Federal Executive Council vice president, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting cooperation between Iraq and Yuguslavia and ways of activating the work of Yugoslav companies in charge of carrying out certain Iraqi development projects were discussed.

The meeting was attended by ministry Under Secretary Shakir Mahmud and the Yugoslav ambassador in Baghdad.

Meeting With Ramadan

JN110945 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 11 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)--Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Zvone Dragan, Yugoslav Federal Executive Council vice president, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and means to develop cooperation in fields of mutual interest.

Protocol Signing

JN110739 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)--A joint protocol on economic, trade and technical cooperation between Iraq and Yugoslavia was signed here tonight. It was signed for Iraq by Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and minister of trade; and for Yugoslavia by Zvone Dragan, vice president of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council.

The protocol provides for increasing the two countries' banking and technical cooperation, as well as training Iraqi cadres and expanding the scope of cooperation in the implementation of the Iraqi development plans. It also contains the results achieved by the subcommittees of the joint committee on trade exchange plans between the two countries this year.

At the signing ceremony, the RCC member stressed Iraq's sincere desire to promote the field of economic, trade and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries within the framework of joint interest.

Zvone Dragan expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the committee's work, which stands as evidence of the depth of friendship and cooperation ties between Iraq and Yugoslavia.

Dragan Departure

JN111958 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)--Zvone Dragan, Yugoslav Federal Executive Council vice president, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this evening at the end of a 3-day visit to Iraq. Dragan headed the Yugoslav side to the meetings of the sixth session of the Iraqi-Yugoslav committee for economic and technical cooperation, which concluded its work today.

Dragan told INA that his visit had achieved positive and fruitful results in developing Iraqi-Yugoslav relations in the economic and technical fields as demonstrated by the results achieved by the joint committees. These results, he said, were crowned by the signing of a protocol on bilateral cooperation for the current year aimed at consolidating and developing the scopes of cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Dragan praised the outcome of the talks he held with the Iraqi officials on economic cooperation and the current international political situation. He pointed out that his country will exert extraordinary efforts to find a solution to the Iraqi-Iranian dispute within the framework of the nonaligned movement's good offices. He stressed that during his visit to Iraq he sensed the Iraqi economy's strength and development at all levels.

Tahir Tawfiq, Revolution Command Council member and minister of industry and minerals, and the Yugoslav Ambassador in Baghdad saw off Dragan and his delegation.

INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS UNDER SECRETARY ARRIVES

JN110728 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)--(Romesh Pahandari), Indian External Affairs Ministry under secretary, arrived here tonight on a visit of several days to Iraq. (Pahandari) said that he will hold talks with the Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials on issues related to the nonaligned foreign ministers' conference, which will be held in New Delhi next month. He also said he will exchange views with them on the current international situation.

Meeting With Hammadi

JN111217 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 11 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)--Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with (Romesh Pahandari), Indian External Affairs Ministry undersecretary. During the meeting, the conferees discussed matters related to the forthcoming nonaligned foreign ministers conference scheduled to convene in New Delhi next month. They also exchanged viewpoints on international developments and cooperation among the nonaligned countries.

Meeting With Oil Minister

JN111314 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 81

[Text] Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council member and oil minister, received this morning (Romesh Pahandari), Indian External Affairs Ministry under secretary. During the meeting, the two sides discussed means to develop relations between the two countries, particularly concerning cooperation between their oil companies and in fields that serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples. The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Planning Affairs under secretary and the Indian Ambassador in Baghdad.

SAUDI ENVOY ARRIVES WITH ORAL MESSAGE FOR HUSAYN

JN121726 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1718 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)--'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, Saudi education minister and King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn, arrived here today. The Saudi envoy said he is to convey an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUE 213

JN121650 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1612 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Communique No 213 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 January 1981]

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)--In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

With great confidence and high morale, our valiant armed forces continue to confront the Magian Persian enemy attempts to attack our advanced positions inflicting on the enemy more losses in equipment and lives.

Following are the results of our military activities last night and today:

I. Ground forces:

A. Our forces inflicted on the enemy four dead in Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and destroyed two tanks, two vehicles and one missile launching pad.

B. Fighting continues between our forces and the enemy in Gilan-e Gharb and Sayf Sa'd with all kinds of weapons. The enemy has sustained heavy losses in materiel and lives.

C. The enemy sustained the following losses in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area: 15 dead and destruction of 3 tanks and 3 vehicles, one laden with ammunition.

D. Our units engaged the enemy in the area of Abadan and forced it to withdraw leaving behind 70 dead. The enemy also lost in the same area eight vehicles, two laden with ammunition and another with fuel; one gun; one missile launching pad; and one excavator.

II. The air force:

Today, our helicopters carried out 10 raids against the enemy's armored vehicles, equipment and enemy concentrations in the Sayf Sa'd area, scoring direct hits. Our aircraft returned safely to base. Thus, the total number of enemy losses is 89 dead, destruction of 5 tanks, 13 vehicles, 2 missile launching pads, 1 excavator and 1 gun.

III. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 17 martyrs.
B. In equipment: One tank, three vehicles, one gun and one mortar were managed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 January 1981

PESHMERGAS, COMMUNISTS ATTACK BA'TH PARTY BUILDING

JN101431 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1530 GMT 9 Jan 81

[Text] A Peshmerga group belonging to the first branch of our party, together with a detachment belonging to the communist party, launched an attack on (Mangishk) subdistrict in Dahuk Governorate. They shelled the Ba'th Party headquarters and a gas station with light weapons and bazookas, killing five Ba'th Party members and officials and wounding three others. The gas station was set on fire.

The peshmergas returned safely to base after distributing the two parties' leaflets to the region's inhabitants.

KING HUSAYN INTERVIEW ON MIDDLE EAST, GULF WAR

JN120951 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Jan 81 p 13

["Text" of interview given by King Husayn to Arab journalist Nasir ad-Din an-Nashashibi on 10 January in Amman; also published on 12 January by Kuwaiti paper AL-ANBA']

[Text] Within the context of his talk about the Gulf war, King Husayn ibn Talal told me: I do not call it an Iraqi-Iranian war, but an Arab-Iranian war, because it concerns all Arabs and the entire Arab destiny.

I said to his majesty: But some might not agree with you, is that not so?

The king said: Let me first give you the overview concerning this subject, then you can ask whatever you like.

The king added: I had observed that recently there have been some people planning to undermine Arab ties and to torpedo all convictions and bases on which our Arab nation was founded. The Camp David accord was only a link in the conspiratorial and criminal chain against Arab ties. It was also a step in the aggressive practices against us. The friendly brother has been changed to an enemy alliance.

When the Arab war broke out against Iran, we noticed a painful divergence in the general Arab attitude toward this war. We were truly hurt to see that some Arabs did not appreciate the scope of this war and did not realize its dangers, particularly since all this took place following the events in the Lebanese arena, including the dismemberment of Lebanon's unity and the incitement of sectarian and religious trends, and also what preceded this in the Jordanian arena in the early 1970's. All these signs of evil threatening the present and future of the Arab character, and the fake masks which tried to conceal signs of all the evil warnings and to drive a wedge into our Arab world, were aimed at inciting the Islamic sects against each other and inciting the Sunni against the Shi'ite and vice versa. This was accompanied by a suspicious determination by some quarters to ignore the historical right of a fraternal Arab country over Arab waters and land and over occupied Arab islands, and to succumb to Iranian trends which sought to expand, dominate and control.

Therefore, when the war broke out, we had to support Iraq because this meant supporting the contemporary Arab right, out of brotherhood, loyalty and devotion to it, and confirming that Iraq has never hesitated to perform its duty toward Arab issues, be it in Syria, Jordan or Palestine. Iraq did this on all levels without any obligation or committing others. Iraq has a martyrs' cemetery in Janin, in the Golan and in Jordan. Can Jordan, therefore, adopt another stand?

The king then said: What would the Iraqi citizen or the Iraqi soldier, who had never hesitated to support every Arab right and to participate in every Arab battle, say when some of their Arab brothers adopt a hostile attitude or a neutral attitude toward their war against Iran? Also, how can we distinguish between a usurped Arab right here or a usurped Arab right there? What is the difference between the two situations and the usurpation in the two cases? Isn't the Arab right one and isn't usurpation in all cases the same? Our stand therefore is the natural one toward our brothers in Iraq until victory, all victory, is achieved. I do not mean victory with its limited military meaning. It is rather the victory to regain our self-confidence and our capability of standing fast, of tolerating, of fighting and of achieving this link of victory.

I can reiterate to you that I never slept so well and felt so rest assured as I did during my 2-day visit to Baghdad during the first days of the war. Before visiting Baghdad, I was anxious and confused, but when I saw how the Iraqi people are standing on the side of their army, how the Iraqi army is offering sacrifices for the sake of its people and how everybody is viewing matters in a clear, sincere, organized and vigilant manner, I was imbued with the feelings of happiness and realized that we have an appointment with victory.

I am not against Iran; I am with the restoration of the Arab rights which are lost in Iran. This war must end. Talks must take place and an agreement must be reached for solving all problems. This should not only take place between Iraq and Iran, but also between Iran and other parts of the Arab homeland. Relations based on mutual respect, nonintervention in the domestic affairs of the other side should also be established. This will be in the interest of Iran and the Arabs alike.

The king then said: Had the stand of our nation been united on this war, it would have managed to stop this bloodshed before becoming momentous and would have forced Iran to realize how strong the united Arab stand is. Despite this, however, I am optimistic over the capability of our brothers there of imposing the situation that can make matters more clear for the Iranian mentality in terms of the dangers resulting from the continuity of this explosive war.

I told King Husayn: Your Majesty, was the timing of this war good? Aren't we in a constant war against the Zionist enemy to preoccupy ourselves with a new enemy who might divert our attention from the traditional enemy? Isn't Israel enough to make Iran join it?

The king said: Iraq has always been ready to make sacrifices for any Arab battle. The war with Iran will not divert Iraq's attention from the fateful battle with Israel. I regrettably say that those who accuse Iraq of shifting the battle from the western front in Palestine to the eastern front in the Shatt al-'Arab are the very ones who forced Jordan only 2 weeks ago to withdraw its army and forces from the Aqaba region in the south where they were facing the Israeli enemy to the northeastern front in Dar'a and Umm Qays in order to face their forces which were massed on our border.

The king, feeling sad and indignant, said: Matters could have developed into an actual clash between the forces massed on either side; a clash between the armies of two fraternal Arab states.

I asked: Was there really any possibility of a clash?

The king replied: Yes. The huge forces they massed and the statements they made during the foreign ministers' preparatory meetings for the summit conference clearly indicated that we had a state of war on the border with Syria. War could have easily taken place, especially in the wake of the tangible troop concentrations that followed. The Syrian position was mysterious and regrettable. The whole thing was disgraceful and I do not want to go any further into it. We have always been against blocs, military alliances and the division of the Arab east into zones of influence. We have also been against military alliances with the major powers, because we want to enjoy our freedom and hold firmly to our beloved Arab homeland, whose preservation has already cost us a great deal. Israel has tried to internationalize our conflict with it and to open the door to foreign intervention in the region. Therefore, when some people say that they are trying to achieve a strategic balance in the region and to create the right atmosphere, we tell them that what they are doing could lead to an international conflagration, jeopardize world peace and prevent them from achieving or accomplishing what they want. We would then lose even the hope to build up our intrinsic strength. We would lose our own freedom and national identify and thus forfeit the rights of coming generations.

I asked the king: Then you believe that the Iraqi-Iranian war has not diverted Arab attention from Israel?

The king replied: This war was forcibly imposed on Iraq. Iraq knew this. It also knew that Iran was preparing to strike first. Iraq had information that Iran was carrying out all kinds of activities a few days before the outbreak of the war. [paragraph continues]

For instance, Iranian airliners were being transferred to airports outside Iran, and arms and ammunition were being stockpiled all along the border with Iraq for use by the Iranian Army when crossing the Iraqi border. Furthermore, there was Iran's interference in Iraq's domestic affairs, Khomeyni's resentment at being expelled from Iraq [where he spent 14 years of his exile life], and Iran's failure to implement the provisions of the 1975 agreement, especially the part calling for withdrawal from Iraqi territory and certain sensitive areas close to Baghdad. Iran has also failed to honor its commitment not to interfere in Iraqi domestic affairs, while Iraq stood by its commitment not to interfere in Iranian domestic affairs. Even when he returned to Iran from exile, Khomeyni could not hide his deep hatred or Iraq. He began to plot against Iraq, forgetting the many years he spent as the guest of that Arab country. This was how problems, plots and tension started. Iran returned to talking about what it termed the buried agreement. It reoccupied all the territories from which the Iranian forces had previously withdrawn. Then it began shelling Iraq border posts and villages. This was followed by the shelling of towns. All this indicated that Iran was imposing war on Iraq and was planning to carry out the first strike.

The king continued: We are indeed grieved that this war between Iraq and Iran is still going on, despite the positive attitude shown by Iraq to reach an immediate solution through Islamic, international or nonaligned efforts. Iraq has often announced its readiness to solve all problems, including the return of the three Gulf islands.

I asked King Husayn: How do you view an end to this war? The king answered: It seems to me that in sufficient time the Iranians will realize the truth; namely, that their behavior up to now will never be of any use. I hope that this will be achieved within the next few weeks.

I asked the king: What about the Arab attitude? He began talking about the recent Arab summit conference in Amman and said: The conference was a good beginning; it was a reiteration of our agreements and commitments at the Baghdad and Tunis summits. Our brother Arab leaders came to realize more of the facts concerning the Arab attitude, especially since they were meeting close to the longest front against the Zionist enemy. The conference also discussed the issue of the Arab people's needs and the feasible and beneficial exploitation of the region's wealth in order to remove the differences among the classes of society and to enable everybody to be productive.

I asked the king: What was the most important resolution passed by the recent Amman summit conference? He replied: The reiteration of the need for our people's steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories and the readiness of the participants to pay the funds necessary for such noble objective. We met in a fraternal atmosphere permeated with the sound spirit of faith and the determination to reach a level that would lead to the mobilization of all Arab resources.

I asked: Are you ready to attend an Arab minisummit conference? The king siad: I hear them talking a lot about this issue. However, I do not think that a collective Arab summit can be held unless it is on schedule. All the Arab foreign ministers took part in drafting the resolutions of the Amman summit. If somebody has an objectiion to certain resolutions, they have the right to have reservations. Any improvised meeting to make up for an absence from the Amman summit is logically unnecessary and useless. It might be an insult to all those who attended the Amman summit.

I asked the king: Why did not you accept a postponement of the summit as they has asked you to do? The king said: To those who asked me this I replied: I have no right to postpone or not to postpone the summit. This was decided by a previous Arab summit. It was decided to hold the summit in Amman on such and such a date close to the frontline and within the Arab League's framework.

I asked: Have the Arab solidarity committee or the Arab League secretary general brought before you any fresh proposals for the elimination of the misunderstanding? [paragraph continues]

The king replied: No sir, nothing whatsoever. I would like to tell you that the Arab decision to form a committee to liquidate Arab differences was made before the Amman summit. This decision preceded the recent events which took place in the wake of the summit.

I asked the king: Are you an optimist concerning the return of Arab solidarity? He said with a sigh: We must be optimistic. As for what took place between us and fraternal Syria, we have been deeply wounded. It undermined the trust which is the first criterion of fair dealing. Despite all this, I personally will attempt to bring back this trust as it was before so that our relations will remain fraternal in the interest of the two countries and the two peoples. However, I cannot say that our relations with Syria will return to what they used to be.

I asked King Husayn: Why did you refuse to receive Dr Henry Kissinger when he announced his readiness to meet with you?

King Husayn answered: From my readings following the outcome of the U.S. presidential elections, I can say that the American people want a new and strong national leadership, which can look after U.S. interests above all. In addition, the results of the U.S. Senate elections, which brought about the downfall of such Zionist pillars such as Javits, Williams and Frank Church, gave me the impression that the American people want to bring people to these sensitive positions whose first and foremost devotion will be to the United States. If our analysis of these results is sound and our picture correct, then our advice to the new U.S. administration is that it not be the captive of previous U.S. stands and commitments. This new administration should give itself the opportunity establish new contact with states, rulers and peoples and to choose its own way. I believe that Dr Kissinger's recent mission was neither timely, logical nor sound. I feel that Kissinger wishes to return to the theater, using both his well-known methods and new tactics. He will convince the new U.S. administration that doors in the area are open to him, that the fate of the area is under his control and that he is capable of influencing the current of events as he wishes. I would like to tell you that Henry Kissinger played many roles in this region. He himself previously announced that he committed large blunders both during and after the roles he played in this part of the world. I personally don't feel at ease about giving Henry Kissinger any role in any new political effort in this region or its vicinity or with regard to our issue. We are still suffering from Henry Kissinger's blunders to this day. We have suffered enough from them. Therefore, we apologized when he requested to visit us.

I said: Was it he or the new administration that asked you to allow him to come?

The king said that it was Kissinger alone and that the administration has repeatedly said that it has nothing to do with him. He added: I have persistently refused to receive him.

I asked the king what his position would be if the new U.S. administration insisted on the so-called Jordanian option as a solution to the problem. The king said: I am committed to the position I took at the Rabat summit conference [acknowledging the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians]. I will not change this position. The Palestinians are the party solely concerned. It is their rights. They must fully exercise their rights and achieve peace based on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including beloved Jerusalem. The rights must be restored to their owners under all of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations. The Palestinian people must be given the freedom to determine their own future.

I asked the king: Does this mean that Jordan is relinquishing the major issue?

The king answered: Absolutely not. I am with the issue with all my blood, resources, army, people and country. I will always support and champion this issue, under all circumstances, until the last drop of my blood. However, the picture in Israel need to be studied. During Carter's era, Israel obtained more than it had from its inception. [paragraph continues]

Nevertheless, Israel is suffering from a strangling economic crisis that led to the wave of emigration and has increased Israeli anxiety over the Arab presence in Israel. This means that Israel will use force to achieve its desired geographical expansion and displacement of Arab citizens. The movement of events has proved that this option has not benefited Israel. The process is then a matter of time. We must stand fast and be in a position to defend ourselves and to preserve the PLO's independence, so that it can always be the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, capable of representing their aspirations, hopes and rights.

Interrupting the king, I said: Should we consider the possibility that Israel will resort to a sudden military adventure to save Menahem Begin from his last economic and political crisis, which is on the verge of finishing him?

The king replied: This is actually likely to occur, which requires that we be prepared and exercise caution. It hurt us to withdraw our forces from the long front in Aqaba, which Israel is seeking to strike, since it sees it as Iraq's lifeline in this war, and to transfer these forces to the north, in order to confront the Syrian concentrations.

The king added: However, we dealt with similar circumstances in the past and managed to overcome them. We also find consolation in this country's unity, the awareness and solidarity of its people and everyone's understanding of the present and future of the battle. The Palestinian in Jordan say that if the motive is to destroy Jordan's military power, in an attempt to force the Palestinian to accept the alternative homeland, then we all reject such a solution, since even if we are among our people and in our homeland here, we still seek to send thousands of youth to the recruiting offices in order to defend the occupied territory.

I said to the king: However, thanks be to God, the crisis has ended and the concentrations are no longer massed, isn't that so?

The king replied: Well, we are still hurt by the effects. We are accustomed to surprises and have always hastened to prepare our forces and support our brothers' armies, to enable them to liberate their homelands. However, the last concentrations have opened our eyes to the possibility of threats that might be directed against us not by Israel, but by others.

I said to the king: Isn't it strange that while Jordan repeatedly affirms its rejection of all that is being circulated about the Jordanian alternative as a solution to the Palestinian issue and clearly announces that Jordan can play no role in such a solution as long as the PLO exists, Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat volunteers to define Jordan's size and plans its role and the date of its participation in the negotiations, just as if As-Sadat were the guardian not only for Palestine but for Jordan as well?

The Jordanian king replied: I cannot explain the blatant hostility that As-Sadat harbors toward the Kingdom of Jordan. I view his recent statements and political viewpoints as an attempt to take the Palestinian issue and the region's future into his custody, just as if he were the only person who is capable of determining the fate of the country and nation.

I would like to reassure As-Sadat by telling him that the issue has its legitimate owners and it is these owners alone who are capable of determining their issue's fate. Our only motivation, until now and in future, where the Palestinian issue is concerned is our loyalty to and association with this issue and its people's right to their homeland and their holy capital. Indeed, this is part of our life and struggle, and everything else that is said is either intrigue or plots fabricated by the foe, or falsehoods uttered by an envious person or one who bears a grudge.

I asked the king: Will you take a special project on Jerusalem to the Islamic summit conference with you?

King Husayn replied: Concerning the Jerusalem issue, yes. We will also take all of the documents, projects, studies and proposals that we can suggest to our brothers in the Muslim world. Through such suggestions, we will be participating with our brothers in the organization in an effort to guarantee the holy city's safety, preserve its Arabism, defend it and make the world feel that we will not relinquish one particle of its precious soil and that the hour of our return to it and its return to us is imminent.

I asked the king: Will the Iraqi-Iranian war be on the agenda of the aforementioned conference?

King Husayn replied: The conference must discuss this serious subject and seek an end to the fighting. It must also discuss the question of the border and of rights, especially with regard to the three Gulf islands and the establishment of normal relations based on respect for each other's sovereignty and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs. We must also put an end to the policy of hegemony and domination, as well as to the exportation of revolutions.

I asked the king: Do your plans include a visit to the United States soon?

The king replied: There is nothing definite, other than what we have all heard from President-elect Ronald Reagan about his desire to meet with me. I am ready to go at the appropriate time, but nothing has happened yet. If we receive an official invitation, we will consider it and respond to it.

I said to King Husayn: Have you defined your position on the European initiative concerning the Middle East?

The king replied: I do not call it an initiative. What I see is a general European political move to visit the area, study its major issue and gather information. This European move is founded on the general bases for the desired peace. It is contrary to the established American line, which has confined its peace efforts to Israel and Egypt, under the well-known Camp David accords. The European approach is a positive one and deserves encouragement. In the international equation, the United States and Europe have always been on the side of Israel. Now Europe has begun something new and important, which we hope will develop further in the interest of right and justice in international politics generally and in regard to our east particularly.

I said to the king: Let us go back to the so-called "Jordanian Option," but from a different angle, the Israeli angle. We have heard many statements by Israeli Labor Party leader Shimon Peres on this subject and on his personal efforts concerning it. What is your majesty's explanation?

The king replied: My clear and correct explanation is that Shimon Peres is trying to drive a wedge between Jordan and the PLO. He is trying to turn one side against the other and to divert everyone's attention from the basic issue, which calls for the need for complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory. Shimon Peres is only interested in harming the Jordanian Kingdom. He is only interested in casting doubt on Jordan's goals and in serving Israel. All of this is clear and obvious.

Turning our discussion to international issues, I asked the Jordanian king about the feverish international atmosphere, in which international detente has been replaced by the evils of cold war.

The king replied: This is an extremely grave situation, which has a direct impact on our part of the world, as demonstrated by the obvious threat to Arab existence, Arab national identity and the Arab human being in the present and the future. We must be very careful. One clear fact that we must comprehend fully is that when the Polish crisis was going through its most difficult stages, certain countries in the region were massing their forces on our border. It was as if there was some sort of agreement and connection [tarbut] between the two situations.

I asked the king: Which is good for the Arabs? Is it international detente or the dispute between the two superpowers?

The king instantly answered: We must not get lost amid the vituperations of these international divisions. We must persistently preserve our independence and our character. We must concentrate on preserving ourselves and our sound Arab history. We must deal with everyone on an equal footing. We must not allow any side to invade this area again, because this would split the area and would render it weak enough to be exploited and distorted.

I asked the king to express his opinion now that some states in the area, particularly Egypt, have granted the United States military facilities and some other states have granted ground and naval bases.

The king answered: Frankly speaking, I am totally against the Soviet actions, particularly those aimed at establishing special relations with some states in the area whose objectives are not that far from the previous and present well-known traditional U.S. attempts to return to the area. The area has its owners and people. We have the right to defend it in a manner compatible with our interests and without being compelled to pay the price to the foreigner and alien.

I asked King Husayn: Did you explain this stand to U.S. General Brown at your meeting during the past two days?

The king said: Brown's recent visit to the area was made on the occasion of Christmas and New Year. During our conversation in Amman, I expressed my point of view to him about the events that concern us. I also voiced my objection to bases, alliances and all kinds of facilities. General Brown is more of a military man than a politician. I did not feel that he was in a position to take political or military responsibility for the future because of the new U.S. administration.

I asked the king: Are you satisfied with the new U.S. administration under Reagan?

King Husayn answered: It is difficult to predict anything about a U.S. era which has not yet started. But I can say that the last U.S. popular trend in choosing the new president and congress members includes positive points portending good. If our assessment proves to be sound and matters prove to be as they look on the surface, we still have the right to feel optimistic and to expect the new U.S. era to give rise to satisfaction.

I asked the king: How do you predict the end of the tragedy of the U.S. hostages in Iran?

He answered: I do not know a real Muslim who can defend this tragedy. This is not a Muslim act. It is against mankind and humanity. It is also harmful to us and places us in a disgraceful position before the world.

As for the required solution, it is also tragic that the only solution in the understanding of the parties concerned is money and arms as a price for releasing the hostages. This solution is in itself a tragedy, especially if we realize that the requested money and arms will go to a country which wishes to export the revolution to its neighbors, to conduct war with them, to foment trouble in the area, to kill, to attack and to challenge.

I asked the king: What about the appointment of Alexander Haig as secretary of state?
The king said: I have personally known General Haig since he was an official exployee in the White House. He is decent, intelligent and efficient. I hope he will understand our rights more than anybody else.

I asked King Husayn: Do you agree with the new U.S. theory that the reorganization and reconstruction of U.S. power in the world will check the Soviet influence and cause a return of U.S. prestige? The king said: It is a U.S. concern to think about this, to declare it and to discover solutions to such issues. Of concern to us is the need to prevent anyone from transforming this region into a sphere of influence for any of the superpowers, especially as it is a rich region and is coveted by everyone. We must preserve our independence, character and neutrality. We must not fall into anyone's sphere of influence, for this would undermine peace, obliterate the Arab history and character and transform us into weak satellites in the column of alignment and dependence.

As the interview went into its 3d hour, I said to the king: I left Europe last week when the Europeans were talking about their wishes for the new year. I wonder, what are the wishes of the king of Jordan in 1981 for himself, his country and the Arab nation?

The king said: I wish that the Arab world could find enough power to face its challenges, that we could build our solidarity and unity under the current difficult circumstances, so that we do not lose ourselves and our rights. I wish that we could enjoy enough awareness to behave rationally and with responsibility, and that we could avoid committing political errors on the international level that may threaten this region and increase its differences and divisions. As for myself, I have no wish dearer than to be able to contribute in serving the coming generations. I have never lived for my day alone, but for tomorrow and the future.

I also asked the king: What does Jordan want from its Arab brothers? What are Jordan's wishes? The king said: Jordan wants its Arab brothers to realize the importance of their existence, their strategic presence and their political, historical, economic and strategic position. They must know that they are being watched by everyone. They should utilize their resources to safeguard their future and to regain their rights and dignity. All of this is very simple to do. It only requires sincere will and genuine organization. All Arabs must have faith in all Arabs. There must not be a place for irresponsibility, escapism, complacency and disintegration. Our causes are more important and greater than our differences. Let us make history and not be satisfied with reading it. Let us define future events and not be satisfied with receiving and living through them.

The king stopped and I saw him look toward the nearby balcony with unseeing eyes, as if he wanted to be asked a certain question on a certain subject. Jordan's sun was shining on Amman's hills nearby and on the Hills of Salt, the Jordan Valley and the proud Jerusalem Hills. I asked the king: How are our people beyond the river, there in Jericho, Jerusalem and Hebron?

The king seemed to press his jaws very hard. He said with apparently tense nerves: I am proud of them, proud of their steadfastness, happy with their patriotism and looking to meeting with them. Two days ago, I told struggler Bassam ash-Shak'ah to convey my good wishes and most sincere greetings to them. I asked him and his colleague, the Ramallah mayor, who was also returning to his homeland, to tell our people there that I will renew my covenent with them, that I will place all of my energy and abilities at their disposal. God is able to realize our aspirations for freedom and dignity and for a free and dignified meeting with them.

The king then stopped and the interview was over.

BRITISH MP ARRIVES IN AMMAN FOR POLITICAL TALKS

JN111308 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 81

[Text] British conservative MP Charles Morrison arrived in Amman today on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Arab League. Morrison will meet with several Jordanian officials to acquaint himself with Arab viewpoints on several political issues, particularly the Middle East issue.

MOROCCAN ENVOYS LEAVE AFTER DELIVERING MESSAGE

JN121522 Amman PETRA-JAN in Arabic 1435 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Amman, 12 Jan (PETRA)--Ahmed Reda Guedira and Ahmed Bensouda, envoys and advisers of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, left Amman this morning at the end of a short visit to Jordan.

During the visit, the two envoys delivered a message to His Majesty King Husayn from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. The message dealt with the Islamic summit and the importance of preparing the Arab and Islamic atmospheres to make a success of the conference.

The Moroccan envoys were seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, senior Foreign Ministry officials and members of the Moroccan Embassy in Amman.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

JN081851 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jan 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received at his office today the Palestinian delegation to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for bolstering steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories. The delegation is led by Hamid Abu Sittah and includes 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, 'Abd ar-Rahman Ahmad, Hani al-Hasan, Khalil al-Wazir and Brig 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya.

The two sides reviewed the topics discussed by the committee in Amman during the past 2 days and which dealt with bolstering the people's steadfastness in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They also discussed a number of issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by the following members of the Jordanian delegation in the committee: Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied lands affairs; Sulayman 'Arar, minister of interior; 'Ali Suhaymat, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of transport; and Shawkat Mahmud, under secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Lands Affairs.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE CONCLUDES MEETINGS

JN091855 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jan 81

[Text] The Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for bolstering steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories has concluded its 3-day meeting and adopted several decisions defining the aims and bases which will regulate its work this year in addition to defining the principles to be followed in supporting the various industries and housing, health and educational projects.

Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied land affairs and head of the Jordanian side to the committee, has stated that during the meetings, which were extremely positive, intensive and extensive discussions were held on ways of bolstering steadfastness in a manner that can achieve the basic aims through promoting economy and development in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip so as to consolidate the people's presence on their lands and enable them to confront the Israeli challenges and aggressive practices.

RADIO REPLIES TO SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH

JN102058 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] In his speech at the celebrations in Damascus marking the 16th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution yesterday [as heard], 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, tried to give the impression that the Syrian regime is against sectarianism. Khaddam picked the situation in Lebanon as an example of a country exposed to the danger of sectarian hegemony, stressing his government's rejection of such hegemony.

It is obvious that by this attempt, Khaddam tried to convey a message related to the nature of the Syrian regime itself by means of addressing words to a neighbor and calling on his own people to hear them. This indirect method of talking about the problems facing the Syrian regime was not Khaddam's usual way of expressing matters. His resorting to this method is significant. The motives and aims of the insinuation intended by Khaddam cannot escape the people's attention. The problem is so clear and obvious that such an insinuation or indirect message cannot, through talk about sectarian hegemony in Lebanon, succeed in cloaking in innocence the regime to which he belongs.

How can such insinuations succeed in their purpose when the Syrian people see what they see and suffer practices bearing a certain stamp that is known to all? How can the Syrian people believe what Khaddam said when they bear in mind the scenes of the massacres of Tudmur, Jisr ash-Shughur, Sarmada, Aleppo, Hamah, Homs, Latakia, Al-Mayadin and others? All these are incidents that explode that of which Khaddam wanted to convince his listeners, namely that he condemns sectarian hegemony in Lebanon.

It seems that Khaddam himself was not sufficiently convinced that his remark on sectarian hegemony in Lebanon would be convincing, so he tried to reinforce it with another meaning that reflects the wide scope of the Syrian regime beyond the sectarian and regional divisions. Therefore, he attacked Jordan with threats and curses, not forgetting to swallow it up in the name of pan-Arabism. It seems that his regime is more sure of swallowing up than it is of liberation--swallowing up of Arab countries instead of liberating parts of his occupied territories.

Even this attempt--whose principles and objectives are not pan-Arab--to deflect suspicions away from the Syrian regime and to prove that this regime is not the captive of narrow policies and outlooks imposed on it by its nature known to the Syrian people and all the Arabs was also unsuccessful because Khaddam forgot, or meant to forget, his regime's stumbling stand on pan-Arab issues and its suspicious support for the Arab nation's enemies, particularly its condemned stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The Syrian regime's stand against the will of the Iraqi Arab people and their national and pan-Arab outlooks to restore the territories, rights and sovereignty violated by Iran removes the last mask of the false pan-Arab slogans behind which the Syrian regime is hiding. The significance of Khaddam's speech lies in those remarks with which he tried to cover up the Syrian regime's reality, nature and aims. However, he succeeded only in stressing these qualities through his efforts to cover up what cannot be covered up or hidden from the Syrian people and the Arab nation as well.

LEBANESE, PLO LEADERS MEET TO ARRANGE MEETING

NC121813 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Excerpt] In an attempt to renew the Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue, [former] Prime Ministers Karami and Al-Huss, Minister Iddih and Arab Deterrent Forces commander Brigadier General al-Khatib met in (Hani Salam's) house with a Palestinian delegation including [PLO Executive Committee Chairman] 'Arafat; Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad; and Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil alias Abu al-Walid. Minister Mu'awwad apologized for not attending because he is in Zgharta.

Minister Iddih explained that he is carrying out consultations with the Palestinians in order to arrange a date for a dialogue with the Lebanese leaders.

COMMAND COUNCIL REJECTS ADF MANDATE RENEWAL

NC121811 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 12 Jan 81

[12 January statement by Lebanese forces command official spokesman--read by announcer]

[Text] The Lebanese forces command council held its weekly meeting at its headquarters under the chairmanship of deputy commander Charles Ghustin and in the presence of the council members.

The command council studied topics on the agenda and paused on the subject of the renewal of the mandate of the so-called Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF]. In this regard it concerns the command council to reaffirm that it absolutely rejects the Syrian occupation of Lebanon and consequently the Lebanese resistance rejects any continuation of the Syrian forces' presence on Lebanese territory under the guise of renewal of the ADF mandate.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES DETENTE PROGRAMS

NC120958 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 5-11 Jan 81 pp 18-26

[Mona as-Sa'id interview "conducted in Arabic" with Lebanese Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus in Beirut--date of interview not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] The first meeting of Lebanese and Israeli officers under UN auspices has produced no results. Do you expect another meeting in the foreseeable future?

[Answer] To begin with, I do not agree that the meeting produced no results. It did, perhaps, produce one result, a political and psychological one. That result is that the resolution of the Security Council which call on the secretary general to arrange a meeting of the parties under the umbrella of the armistice agreement and under UN auspices has been implemented. Morally, that is a very important development.

As for your question about a future meeting, another meeting may be held early next year (1981).

[Question] Do you think the next meeting will produce more results than the last?

[Answer] The southern issue is part of the Lebanese issue, which is very complex and complicated. We must never lose sight of the fact that there are no magic, instant solutions to these problems. We all know the obstacles which are blocking progress.

I believe, however, that the armistice commission is one of the currently available means through which we may be able to achieve some progress toward the security of the south and the southern territory. The armistice commission by itself is not the solution, but we cannot discard it as one of the means, because any benefit that we may be able to draw from it and any progress we may be able to achieve through it, no matter how modest, would not be bad in the present circumstances.

[Question] The Arab Deterrent Forces' mandate will expire in January. Does Lebanon intend to ask for another extension?

[Answer] As you know, the ADF is the concern of the president of the republic and I cannot speak for him. However, I believe that Lebanon will ask for an extension.

[Question] Do you believe that the extension should be conditional, as Mr al-Uumayyil and other Lebanese front leaders have been saying? Conditional, for instance, on a set program for a gradual Lebanese take-over of security duties from the ADF?

[Answer] It's not a matter of conditions. The ADF, by nature of its mission, is a temporary force, and its mission will end when the authority deems that the reasons that prompted us to resort to it have been eliminated.

In view of this we must make use of the extension by taking steps that could enable Lebanon to make over its security affairs unaided in the future. It is from this angle that we must view this matter and what the chief of state or the government must do.

Any talk about conditional extension is secondary to this major goal.

[Question] Do you agree with those who are saying that the recent Syrian-Soviet treaty is responsible for much of the inter-Arab tension, and that it has brought Lebanon more than ever before into the superpower struggle?

[Answer] To be objective in one's analysis, one must say that the tension was to a large extent the child of the Camp David agreement, and that Lebanon has since that agreement was signed become more and more involved in the inter-Arab struggle. This is because after the Camp David agreement the Arabs tended more toward international polarization than toward the preservation of specific policies or interests.

That is the truth of the matter in my view.

[Question] Have you received any indication that the attitude of the Reagan administration to Lebanon will be more favorable and more action-oriented than the Carter administration's attitude?

[Answer] The future administration has given no indication as to what its intentions regarding Lebanon may be.

However, I think it would be difficult for the coming American administration to be less interested in Lebanon or less active on Lebanese affairs than the Carter administration was, despite the occasional statements that were issued (by the Carter administration about Lebanon).

[Question] Exactly what does Lebanon expect from the Reagan administration?

[Answer] Lebanon expects the Reagan administration to regard Lebanon as a state in itself and not as a pawn on the chessboard of the Middle East, and hence to deal with the international dimensions of the Lebanese crisis independently of the Middle Eastern crisis, if only on a step-by-step basis.

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR LIBYA 10 JAN

JN100946 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Text] PDRY Foreign Minister Salim Salih Muhammad has reiterated that Syria's stand and that of the PDRY are identical with regard to Arab and international issues.

In a statement prior to his departure for Libya today, Salim Salih Muhammad added that he had conveyed a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad dealing with the situation in the Arab area.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM MOROCCAN KING

JN121526 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Damascus--President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1300 today Ahmed Bensouda and Ahmed Reda Guedira, envoys and advisers of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, who conveyed a message from King Hassan II.

The meeting was attended by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs.

Discussion centered on bilateral relations, the Islamic summit conference and issues to be proposed to it.

Bensouda and Guedira arrived in Damascus this morning. They were received at Damascus International Airport by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; the assistant to the chief of protocol in the Foreign Ministry; the Moroccan ambassador; and the staff of the Moroccan Embassy in Damascus.

Envoys' Departure

JN121720 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Ahmed Bensouda and Ahmed Reda Guedira, envoys of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, left Damascus for Morocco at the end of a short visit to Syria during which they delivered a message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco dealing with bilateral relations and the third Islamic summit conference.

The Moroccan envoys were seen off at Damascus International Airport by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; the assistant director of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the Moroccan ambassador and embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Ahmed Bensouda said: We have delivered a message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco dealing with consultations on the Islamic summit conference to be held in holy Mecca late this month. Bensouda added: Our visit to Damascus comes as part of the Arab tour we have made to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Jordan for consultations with Arab countries.

KHADDAM LEAVES ON OFFICIAL TRIP 11 JANUARY

JN110944 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Jan 81

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Damascus today for Saudi Arabia. This is the first leg of a tour of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain to convey messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to the leaders, kings and amirs of these Arab states.

KHADDAM ON ISLAMIC SUMMIT ATTENDANCE, FEDAYEEN

JN112148 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 11 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Manama--'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Manama today.

In a statement to journalists in Kuwait this afternoon, Khaddam said that President Hafiz al-Asad will personally attend the Islamic summit conference to be held in holy Mecca on 25 January.

On developments regarding the Syrian-Libyan unity, Khaddam said that these developments were expressed in the statement issued on President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Benghazi.

In reply to another question, Khaddam stressed that Syria's borders are open to everyone who wants to work against Israel and that this decision was conveyed to the Palestinian leadership years ago. He added: We welcome activating fedayeen activities through the Syrian and other borders because the burden must not remain with Lebanon alone or Syria alone.

KHADDAM ON REAGAN'S POLICY, OTHER MIDEAST ISSUES

JN122100 Doha QNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Doha, 12 Jan (QNA)--Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said he is confident that the success of the forthcoming Islamic summit conference in holy Mecca will reflect positively on the Arab struggle movement against the Zionist entity and the forces hostile to the Arab nation.

Khaddam called on all Arab countries to direct all their material and moral potentials to confronting the greed of the Zionist enemy and stressed the importance of taking measures to create a suitable atmosphere for new Arab relations based on directing efforts at confronting the common enemy.

On reports that there are contacts between Syria and the new U.S. administration, Khaddam said that Syria believes that no changes will take place in U.S. policy during Reagan's term in office. If, however, a positive change takes place, this will be discussed at the appropriate time.

In an interview with Qatari television today, Khaddam said he believes that U.S. policy does not depend on the person of the president but on several factors which dictate the formulation of this policy on the various issues. Khaddam pointed out that it is necessary to wait for the time that the Reagan administration announces its program concerning the international situation and the situation in the Middle East.

Khaddam spoke about the current situation in the Arab region and said that it was becoming more complicated because of the Zionist enemy's intransigence, its rejection of Arab and Palestinian rights and the growth of its military strength. The Arab situation is very weak and there are side-battles and disputes which are encouraged by some Arab states at the expense of the main battle. This, the Syrian minister said, necessitates serious and speedy work to deal with the current Arab situation. The Arab states must stand in one trench against Israel. He pointed out that Syria is exerting all its efforts in this field and is working to build its own strength in order to achieve a strategic balance of forces between it and Israel.

Khaddam described the Camp David accords as a link in a chain aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause, dismembering the Arab nation and imposing U.S. hegemony on the region. The Syrian foreign minister called for more action to face this threat.

On the Lebanese situation, Khaddam said that Syria is endevoring to bring back detente and peace to Lebanon. He affirmed that the realization of peace in Lebanon requires the participation of all parties concerned because only the Lebanese themselves can make peace.

BA'TH PARTY, GREEK CP ISSUE JOINT STATEMENT

JN121756 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Damascus--The Communist Party of Greece-Exterior has stressed the importance of the successes scored by the Syrian Arab people in all fields and the prominent role Syria is assuming to confront the Zionist aggression and imperialist schemes under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

This was contained in the joint statement issued following talks between a delegation of the Ba'th Party and a delegation of the Communist Party of Greece in Athens 4-8 January.

The two delegations reiterated their condemnation of the Camp David agreements and the separate peace treaty between As-Sadat's regime and Israel concluded under the auspices of U.S. imperialism.

The two sides stressed that these agreements have proved completely contrary to the Arab people's vital interests, have complicated the Middle East issue and have become an obstacle to any comprehensive and just settlement.

The two delegations stressed their determination to continue the struggle for a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East issue based on full withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all the arab territories occupied since 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return to their homeland and establishment of their independent state on Palestinian soil under the PLO.

The two sides noted that the war raging between Iraq and Iran harms the two peoples and peace in the area and gives imperialism the opportunity to increase its interference. That is why the two sides believe that peaceful methods and negotiations between the two countries will provide the opportunity for the only solution that accords with the two peoples' interests.

The two delegations called for immediate withdrawal of imperialist military concentrations and liquidation of military bases in the Arab Gulf and Indian Ocean.

The two parties expressed their full solidarity and support for the just struggle waged by the Lebanese people against Zionist and imperialist conspiracies. The two parties also expressed support for the struggle of the Cypriot people in settling the Cypriot issue on the bases of UN resolutions and in the interest of an independent and unified Cyprus, with complete sovereignty over its territory free of military bases.

At the end of the statement, the two delegations expressed their two parties' desire to proceed toward developing friendly cooperation between the two parties. From this premise, the Ba'th Party delegation has extended an invitation to Kharilaos Florakis, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece-Exterior, to visit Syria at the head of a party delegation. The invitation was accepted and its date will be set later.

AL-BA'TH WARNS JORDAN AGAINST TAKING PEACE ROLE

JN101111 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Press Review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Syria's Message is Still on the King's Table," AL-BA'TH writes: No matter how long the Jordanian regime might delay assumption of its role in the conspiracy and regardless of the U.S.-Israeli and royal pretexts, the so-called Jordanian option or the new Jordanian role in any forthcoming camp will not take place unless a group of factors are available to prompt the king to join As-Sadat's club.

The paper adds: They thought that Syria was incapable of defying the conspiracy on its three levels, which constitute three wide fronts each of which dictates a major effort to dissipate the Syrian military and political power and to undermine its effectiveness in confrontation on these fronts. The three fronts were opened at the same time. In southern and northern Lebanon; in Zahlah recently through the repeated Israeli aggressions; and inside Syria through Jordan and Iraq and their major role in the conspiracy which has become exposed. They thought that these three fronts, collectively or separately, would eliminate Syria's power on these fronts so that King Husayn would be allowed to proceed in playing his role. However, as usual, they were received by their calculations because they are unaware of the resources and the factors of Syria's power.

Syria's power is a mixture of material and moral factors which have made it the key for war and peace in the area and rendered it the principal political, military and militant weight. Syria is a mixture of all factors supported by the world's progressive and liberation forces, headed by the Soviet Union, which finds in Syria a struggling base against imperialism, Zionism and reaction. The objective reality is that Syria has managed to direct the conflict on the three levels with matchless effectiveness. Syria has foiled the designs on the domestic front. It decisively settled the reactionary matter and chopped off its striking arm; namely, the Muslim Brotherhood gang. A criminal act here or an assassination of an innocent there will not change this fact because this method indicates the bankruptcy and impotence of confrontation.

This happened in Syria at a time when it was preoccupied with defying the isolationists in southern and northern Lebanon who tried, with the help of the Zionist enemy, to foil the Syrian efforts against the major conspiracy. Syria has also settled the situation. All this did not prevent Syria from firmly replying to the Israeli aggressions against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples in southern Lebanon as part of its strategic decision on defending the Palestinians. Syria's decision will never be changed by any kind of designs.

At the same time, Syria has sent its famous message to King Husayn, warning him against getting involved in liquidating the cause. King Husayn has received the message and perfectly understood its meaning. If Jordan's regime is delaying assumption of its role, it is because Syria's open message is still on the king's table and is still clear and valid in its objectives, contents and dimensions. Syria will immediately carry out the contents of the message when King Husayn thinks of liquidating the Palestine cause and of departing from the Arab nationa resolutions, which have been announced at more than one Arab summit.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: There is no harm in reiterating that in any move toward the course of the enemy or the United States, no mediation or mediators will protect King Husayn and his regime. Husayn and his masters know that Syria is the one which makes decisions in the area and is capable of moving and striking in all directions.

King Husayn should be aware of his illusions because Syria will not bargain on the pan-Arab issue and will not hesitate to use its power against any direction, in accordance with the pan-Arab interests.

ALGERIA

APS VIEWS NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION, KISSINGER TOUR

LD121418 Algiers APS in English 1125 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 12 Jan (APS)--"In eight days, a president will change over another one in the White House. Mr. Ronald Reagan, Republican, will replace Mr. James Carter, Democrat, and will lead the American administration during 4 years.

"During his electoral campaign and following his victory, Mr. Reagan disclosed his 'way' of operating on the international field, particularly in the Middle East, a subject which is very important for the U.S. Jewish electorate, which role is determining in the race for power, thanks to its huge financial possibilities", the Algerian news agency APS writes in a commentary devoted to Mr. Reagan's policy in the Middle East.

"The president-elect showed his determination to give a new impluse to the Camp David accords which in fact proved, after three years of efforts, that only two sides concerned by the conflict joined the Camp David process: Cario's regime and Israel", APS adds.

The Algerian news agency recalls Dr Kissinger's recent tour in the Middle East and says "Kissinger who is expected to play an important role in the Reagan's administration, declared that Al-Quds is indivisible, that's to say the 'eternal capital' of Israel, as decided by the Zionist leaders.

"The one who once has been the man of the 'step by step diplomacy' (which totally collapsed) seems to resume the use of the 'big means', for imposing a 'pax Americana' in the Middle East and expressing the U.S. leadership in any solution to that region's problems", APS writes.

"It is in this context that we warned the Western European countries," APS goes on, when he affirmed that "Europe must not oppose the U.S. attempts" and would support an increased American military presence in the Middle East". [quote mark as received]

"This shows the failure of the U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East and a better understanding of the Arab and Palestinian causes by Western Europe."

APS stresses that "A European initiative may seriously oppose the American plans, if it does not consider any more the U.N.'s Resolution 242, of which in fact the majority of the international instance's members do recognise its ineptness".

"In turn, the strengthening of the U.S. military potential in the Middle East meets with the fear to see the anti-American protest extended and to question the U.S. privileges in several countries of the region".

"Mr. Reagan's election goes presently with a clear resumption of the Israeli aggressiveness, particularly in south-Lebanon where the joint forces of the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese National Movement are opposing the plans of liquidating the Palestinian question and at the same time, those aimed at the partition of Lebanon", APS writes.

"The recent declarations of Mr. Kissinger are to encourage the Israeli interventions against this sovereign country, still suffering from the civil war's effects, which are consequences of Tel Aviv interferences in Lebanon's domestic affairs.

"Far from contributing to the establishment of a real peace in the region, these declarations could provoke a new confrontation," APS indicates.

The agency concludes "It is therefore with real apprehension that the Arab observers consider the installation of the new U.S. administration, which apparently is for a "muscled diplomacy" doubled if necessary with the use of force.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT BY FRG FOREIGN MINISTER

Arrival, Abdelghani Audience

LD121544 Algiers APS in English 1452 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 12 Jan (APS)--Mr. Abdelghani, FLN C.C. member, prime minister, audienced Monday morning, at the "Palais du Gouvernement:, Mr Hans Dietrich Genscher, vice-chancellor and foreign minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, on an official visit to Algeria. This visit was the occasion to exchange views on international questions and the means to develop bilateral relations.

Meeting With Christopher

LD122006 Hamburg DPA in German 1923 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 12 Jan (DPA)--Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher had a meeting this evening in Algiers with U.S. negotiator and Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, to be briefed on the efforts being made to obtain the release of the U.S. hostages in Tehran. The meeting lasted 30 minutes. No details were given. Christopher has been in Algiers since last Thursday to maintain close contact with the Algerian Government, which is acting as an intermediary with Tehran. Genscher returns on Tuesday to Bonn following a 3-day official visit.

Visit End, Cooperation Agreement

LD131002 Hamburg DPA in German 0843 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 13 Jan (DPA)--Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher ended his 3-day visit to Algeria today and returned to Bonn. In his talks with the Algerian leadership both sides stressed their intention to follow the good economic relations with a closer political dialogue on the safeguarding of peace and stability. Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia has accepted Genscher's invitation to visit Bonn, but a date has not yet been set. Rabah Bitat, the president of the National People's Assembly, will visit the Federal Republic with a delegation in the spring.

The Algerian Government newspaper EL MOUDJAHID today reported extensively on an agreement for the establishment of a joint German-Algerian commission, which will be concerned primarily with the promotion of economic and technical cooperation. The agreement was signed today by the two foreign ministers in Algiers. The government newspaper sees "new prospects for Algerian-German cooperation" in the establishment of the commission and in Genscher's visit. The Federal Republic is Algeria's second most important trading partner.

LIBYA'S JALLUD ARRIVES, RECEIVED BY BENDJEDID

LD121554 Algiers APS in English 1450 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Algiers, 12 Jan (APS)--Commandant 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of General Secretariat of Libyan Arabic Jamahiriyah's General People's Congress, arrived here Monday morning. He was welcomed upon arrival by Boualem Benhamouda, Politburo member, interior minister.

Arrival Statement

LD130800 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Excerpts] Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud returned to Tripoli late today at the end of a short visit to Algeria during which he had a long meeting with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid. Staff Major Jallud stressed that the great Fatah revolution has chosen a difficult road and believes in meeting its pan-Arab commitments, the most important of which is the Palestinian cause and the realization of Arab unity.

In a statement on arrival at Houari Boumediene Airport in Algiers, he said that a new imperialist military phase has begun in the Arab homeland and Africa. This phase is manifested in the presence of military bases and the French occupation of central and other parts of Africa on the pretext of France's so-called historic commitments. He told journalists that his visit to Algiers falls within the framework of the continuation of the dialogue between the two revolutionary leaderships in the Jamahiriyah and Algeria. He stressed the need to continue this dialogue and the necessity of an alliance between the two revolutions, one with popular efforts and dimensions, so as to achieve more forward steps on the path of building Arab unity. Arab unity, he said, is the revolution. We believe that a regionalist, regardless of the slogans he raises, is reactionary unless he is a unionist, since revolution, in our opinion, is the mother of revolutions and it has created an enormous radical change in Arab reality.

Staff Major Jallud stressed that the liberation of Palestine can be achieved only by unity and that Arab-Islamic cultural awakening can be realized only through Arab unity, as the Arabs are the foundation of Islam.

Referring to the development of events in the Arab region, Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud drew attention to the danger of the imperialist-reactionary plotting which is taking on new dimensions bound to harm the Arab nation and its cause, Palestine and the peoples of the Third World.

He denounced the questionable visits being paid to some Arab countries by leaders of the imperialist states, stressing that such visits do not happen by chance; they are for the purpose of plotting. He gave as examples the visits to Morocco by some leaders, including that by British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, who discussed at length and in detail the holding of the coming Islamic conference. This means, he added, that the conference is being preplanned and that all those who attend it have to do is bless it. We believe that Islam is the Islam of the Koran and the Islam of Muhammad, and not an American-style or reactionary Islam.

In his statement to journalists, Staff Major Jallud warned against the imperialist-reactionary attack and the threat it constitutes to the freedom and independence of the peoples. We, being revolutionaries, cannot remain on-lookers, as the traditional states are doing.

He explained that when we stand up to this attack, we rely on the huge struggle-assets of the Muslims and Arabs. Algeria's past historic stand places great obligations on Algeria. When we come to Algeria and have talks with the Algerian brothers, we together carry out a deep analysis of the dimensions of the danger of imperialist and reactionary plotting and we also study the means to confront it so as to preserve the independence and freedom of our people and nation.

Algeria, he said, is our best ally in standing up to the plans emerging from this plotting.

Concluding, Staff Major Jallud denounced the U.S. bases in the Arab homeland and called for arousing the zeal of the Arab masses to shoulder their responsibilities, to confront these bases and foil the plots being hatched by the hostile forces.

Bendjedid Reception

LD122054 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Chedli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party, this afternoon received Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, member of the General Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. This meeting was attended by Brother Boualem Benhamouda, member of the Central Committee and minister of the interior and by the Algerian ambassador to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

LIBYA

TRIPOLI REPORTS ACTIVITIES OF IRAQI FRONT

LD121420 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Baghdad--The Iraqi National Islamic Liberation Front on 22 December attacked the premises of Al-Mawsil television station in Iraq, killing a number of guards and disrupting transmission. They also captured two Egyptian officers with the rank of captain.

The front also attacked the offices of the director of public security at Al-Kazimiyah, killing seven soldiers of the Iraqi regime.

The forces of the Iraqi National Islamic Liberation Front have taken control of Al-Hajj 'Imran district, which overlooks Kirkuk east of Al-Mawsil. Kirkuk is the oil center.

PAPER ATTACKS FRENCH 'IMPERIALIST INTERFERENCE'

LD121444 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Await Napoleon's Return," today's issue of AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR writes: The freedom of Africa and the sanctity of its territories and independence and its right to exploit its own wealth and save itself from poverty and backwardness are all sacred matters which, if violated, demand an immediate rush to carry arms and mobilize the African masses in the face of the flagrant imperialist interference.

The imperialist powers tread upon all human values and international traditions and charters and even the most fundamental international norms of respect for the will of peoples and noninterference in their internal affairs. They have brandished their air and land weapons including French military aircraft, tanks, rockets and artillery in an overt military campaign aimed at swarming central Africa with the French military presence and turning it into a strong arsenal to be used as a springboard for aggression against the neighboring African peoples.

The article urges the African revolutionary forces to arouse the African peoples' concern for their security and independence and thus make them rush like a roaring torrent to check all forms of imperialist interference in the continent's affairs.

Elsewhere, AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR publishes an article on French military concentrations and interference in Africa. The article reiterates that the open French military interference in the internal affairs of the continent is not new. If one recalls the black dossier in Africa of French actions against the peoples of the African Continent, one can readily realize this fact.

The writer asks: In the face of these truly agonizing events, we can rightly ask: What independence has remained for Africa? Does Africa belong to France or to the Africans?

MORE EMBASSIES CONVERTED INTO PEOPLE'S BUREAUS

Sri Lanka Embassy

BK071415 Hong Kong AFP in English 1333 GMT 7 Jan 81

[Text] Colombo, 7 Jan (AFP)--The Libyan Embassy here was today converted into a people's bureau administered by a committee of Libyans. A statement issued by the committee said this was in response to a call by the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to change the Libyan embassies into people's bureaus to be administered by people's committees.

Similar changes have taken place in Libyan embassies in several other capitals over the past few months. From today the people's bureau will be administered by a people's committee chosen by the Libyan revolutionary power of the Libyan Jamahiriya, the statement said.

The charge d'affaires of the embassy has been appointed to the five-member committee and he has been placed in charge of cultural affairs. The other four committee members came from abroad a few days ago. It was not immediately known whether the diplomats in the former embassy would return home.

"The establishment of the people's bureau in Sri Lanka, which expressed the people's diplomatic system, will play a positive part in further strengthening the already existing ties between the two countries", the statement said.

Kenya Embassy

LD122346 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] The Libyan Arab masses have marched on the Libyan Embassy in Kenya and turned it into a people's bureau run by a people's committee. The march on the Libyan Embassy in Kenya is an embodiment of the democratic experiment which is now being practiced in the Jamahiriyah and an assertion that true relations are those which are established among peoples and not governments.

MOROCCO

GUINEA'S TOURE SAYS OAU COMMITTEE TO CONDEMN LIBYA

LD121552 Rabat MAP in English 1236 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Casablanca, 12 Jan (MAP)--The Guinean minister of foreign affairs, Dr Haj Abdoulay Toure, left here Sunday after he had conveyed to King Hassan II of Morocco a personal message from Guinean President Hamed Sekou Toure.

In a declaration to the Moroccan news agency MAP, the head of the Guinean diplomacy defined his country's stance vis a vis the situation in Chad and recalled the three successive missions he undertook to Ndjamena, before the fall of (?the) Chadian capital. Mr Abdoulay Toure further recalled the position of the Organization of African Unity's ad hoc committee of which Guinea is a member saying the committee had several times condemned foreign interferences in the Chadian conflict and indicated that this committee would shortly meet and clearly condemn the Libyan intervention in Chad. It is to be recalled that during his visit to Morocco Dr Toure held talks with several Moroccan officials notably with Mr M'hamed Boucetta, minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation.

RABAT REPORTS BATTLES WITH 'MERCENARIES' 7-9 JAN

7-8 Jan Battles

LD092118 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jan 81

[Text] During all of 7 January fierce battles raged northwest of Smara between our Royal Armed Forces and gangs of mercenaries. The enemy in vain tried to resist the advance of our units and staged counterattacks using four corps; but all those attempts were a complete failure.

At sunset the enemy retreated in defeat towards the east, leaving 20 behind in the battlefield; totally destroying vehicles, scores of bodies and a significant quantity of weapons and munitions of various types.

On the same day a group of mercenaries tried to penetrate the defensive line east of Bu Craa. Fierce battles raged from 0730 until 1130, after which the enemy retreated, leaving behind three burned vehicles. On 8 January in the same region, fiercer battles took place throughout the day as the enemy tried many times to stage counterattacks. The Royal Armed Forces repulsed these attacks thanks to the high spirit of resistance and the firm will enjoyed by the various units and thanks to the alertness of the cadres from all ranks of the Royal Armed Forces. When the enemy retreated in the night it left behind 10 destroyed and burned vehicles with all their mercenary occupants aboard northwest of Smara, and 23 destroyed vehicles east of Bu Craa.

The Royal Air Force played an effective role in these battles. Its involvement had an effective impact on the smashing of the mercenary attacks against our defensive lines. In all cases it also pursued remnants of the mercenaries, burning 15 vehicles and damaging others. The battles during these 2 days resulted in the killing and wounding of 160 mercenaries, the destruction of 53 vehicles, and the destruction of varied and significant quantities of weapons. The Royal Armed Forces lost 17 persons. Fifty-four were wounded and two vehicles were destroyed.

9 Jan Battle

LD101605 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Text] The battles which raged on 7 and 8 January continued in the same areas on 9 January. The mercenaries launched two fierce attacks against the royalist forces using light armored vehicles, multiple-rocket launchers and radar-guided missiles. Our forces repulsed successfully all these attacks with the effective support of the land and air forces.

In the area east of Bu Craa the mercenaries tried at 0700 yesterday to attack our units' advance defense lines. But the mercenaries retreated toward the east when confronted with the heroic resistance and fierce attacks of the royalist forces. They were chased by the royalist air force which destroyed and set fire to five vehicles.

On our side five soldiers were wounded in all these battles.

SUDAN

FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARRIVES

JN121834 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 12 (SUNA)--Visiting French minister and director of international relations in the Ministry of Defense M. General Hibon arrived here accompanied by his wife late last night. In a statement following arrival M. Hibon said it was not his first time to visit the Sudan adding that it was a pleasure for him to further strengthen existing fraternity relations between Sudan and France. M. Hibon's visit will last four days during which he would also make a trip to the southern region.

He was received, following arrival, by the Sudanese Assistant Defense Minister Gen. Fathi 'Umar Abu al-Hasan and army Chief of Staff Gen. 'Izz ad-Din 'Ali Malik beside other high ranking military chiefs and the French ambassador here H.E. Robert Hourcaillou. M. Hibon is accompanied by two aides.

WESTERN SAHARA

COMMUNIQUES REPORT VICTORIES OVER MOROCCANS

LD092130 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jan 81

[Text] News agencies have carried reports about the new military victories of the Saharan fighters this week against the forces of the Moroccan regime which suffered heavy losses in men and equipment.

On its part, the SDAR Information Ministry explained in a communique published today concerning these victories that the Saharan fighters carried out a fierce attack on the invader royalist forces in the Bu Craa area on 7 January. The battle which went on for several hours, resulted in heavy losses being inflicted on the invaders, who lost a great number of killed and wounded royalist soldiers, and the capture of a number of royalist soldiers, as well as the destruction of important quantities of ammunition and military equipment.

The communique added that in the same day another unit of the Saharan fighters attacked a large concentration of royalist forces in (Rous Lakhlayet) on the Saharan-Moroccan borders; the attack resulted in the activity of scores of its soldiers being paralyzed, including 205 killed, and the destruction of various types of military equipment including 39 armored vehicles and trucks, 19 guns, 4 batteries and 19 machineguns of various caliber.

The communique also said that a unit of the Saharan fighters, on 7 January, shelled with heavy artillery the royalist forces of occupation in the (Guelta) area for 30 minutes, inflicting major losses in lives and equipment.

11 Jan Report

LD110030 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 11 Jan 81

[Text] The SDAR Information Ministry has published a new military communique which states that the Saharan fighters killed 235 Moroccan troops, including a number of NCO's, in the course of an attack against the expansionist forces stationed in Bu Craa. They also took seven POW's and destroyed large amounts of military equipment, including 40 trucks of various types and 12 Landrovers. The communique says that the Saharan fighters seized considerable supplies of weapons and military equipment.

REPORTAGE ON ELECTION ISSUE, RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

Cabinet Majority

TA121231 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] An early Knesset election is almost a certainty now. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, reports that this will apparently happen through a law that the government will initiate on this issue. The elections will probably take place in the middle of June 1981.

In the special Cabinet meeting this morning a clear majority emerged for early elections. Upon leaving the meeting the prime minister said that his position, too, is to that effect. He added that the precise date of the elections will be set through consultations to be held by the coalition factions today and tomorrow. Mr Begin emphasized that the decision was made on early elections due to the parliamentary reality developing following the RAFI faction's withdrawal from the coalition. He noted that the possibility of the government initiating its own resignation was not raised in the meeting.

Our correspondent reports that Ministers Shamir, Ehrlich, Moda'i, Nisim, Burg, Hammer, Yadin, Katz and, as mentioned, the prime minister, supported early elections. In this context the foreign minister remarked that the government must not act as an ostrich in the present situation.

Ehrlich accompanied his remarks with a sharp attack on the Alignment. He said he is concerned about the possibility that this party will handle the country's affairs since this party will view the country as its own property.

Ministers Sharon, Levi and Pat were against early elections. According to them the government should end its term in November.

Correspondent Tzvi Yisre'eli reports from the Knesset that contacts have already begun among the various factions and it seems that they are inclined to reach an early agreement on the elections issue.

Begin Statement

TA121303 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Report by David Essing--recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Begin and his Cabinet took another step forward today toward holding early elections before next November. After the 3-hour Cabinet session Prime Minister Begin made this statement, his first in recent weeks, on the Cabinet crisis:

[Begin] Well, we held a sesssion of the Cabinet in the morning and the discussion made it clear that there is a tendency amongst the majority of the ministers to hold a precipitated election. Tonight we shall consult our friends and colleagues in the Knesset and then the decision, practically, will be taken during the week.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, are you all also considering resignation?

[Begin] We did not talk about it today.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Begin, are you disappointed that you could not finish the term until November?

[Begin] No, I am not disappointed at all. This is democracy. It happens. In a coalition government if one of the partners leaves it and then a new situation is created, there is no reason to be disappointed.

[Unidentified correspondent] If you decide in favor of early elections, how will this affect the government's decisionmaking process?

[Begin] Well, that depends on the date that will be decided upon and during those months we shall continue our work as usual, without any change. The government has to fulfill its duties and so it shall be.

[Unidentified correspondent] Will it affect the autonomy negotiations with Egypt and the United States?

[Begin] Well, I cannot answer this question at all because that depends on the administration which will come into office on the 20th of January in the United States. We will, of course, hold consultations both with our friends in the United States and in Egypt.

[Essing] So, the next stage is more consultations, but apparently the prime minister has already made up his mind to initiate a bill dissolving parliament and holding elections sometime around June.

There has been no discussion yet on who will replace Yiga'el Hurvitz as the new finance minister. This is David Essing reporting from the prime minister's office.

RAFI Withdrawal

TA121956 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] This evening the executive of the RAFI movement, resigning Fiance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz' party, decided to withdraw from the government coalition and the Likud. Our Knesset correspondent Mikha Limor heard this from the RAFI secretariat chairman, MK Yitzhaq Peretz.

[Begin recording] [Peretz] We will go to the elections on a RAFI list with other, additional, bodies.

[Question] Do you support the Alignment's proposal to move the elections up to this April?

[Answer] I think the Alignment will have to support our proposal. Since there is an argument between the Alignment and the Likud and we have a joint proposal with MK Yitzhaqi for the dispersal of the Knesset, I hope we will be able to recruit a majority for it.

[Question] Do you agree with April?

[Answer] We are prepared for April. The state of the economy requires that elections be held as soon as possible. [end recording]

Weizman Position

TA130957 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jan 81 pp 1, 2

[By Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] Yesterday MK 'Ezer Weizman said he did not intend to appear on a separate list in the upcoming Knesset election campaign--or in any framework whatsoever.

Mr Weizman, who was disussing this topic with MK Hilel Seidel, Likud, denied the rumors that this decision had any connection with the illness of his son Sha'ul. Mr Weizman said that he did not want to be a "second," a word that was interpreted in two ways: either number "two" after Menahem Begin in the Likud list, or in a second central list along with that established by RAFI. In a conversation Mr Weizman also expressed regret at the fact that Prime Minister Menahem Begin had not listened in the past to his proposal to advance the elections and hold them 1 year ago.

AUTONOMY NEGOTIATIONS TO RESUME ON 14 JAN

TA122015 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] The autonomy negotiations will be resumed on 14 January in Tel Aviv at the level of advisers. The talks among the Israeli, Egyptian and U.S. delegations will last for 2 and 1/2 days. Our political correspondent reported that the U.S. delegation has received the approval of the new administration for the resumption of the talks.

HERZOG BRIEFS AS-SADAT ON DOMESTIC ISSUES

TA121214 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Jan 81 pp 1, 2

[By Arab affairs correspondent 'Oded Granot]

[Excerpt] President of Egypt Anwar as-Sadat heard a detailed explanation from "a primary source" about the eventual bringing forward of elections in Israel, about the internal balance of power and the political and legal implications of dissolving the Knesset, while he was talking a few days ago with the former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Hayim Herzog.

The meeting in Mr as-Sadat's vacation residence in Aswan lasted for 1 hour. Vice President Husni Mubarak, Deputy Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, and the OCTOBER weekly magazine editor Anis Mansu, also attended the meeting.

In the conversation the president of Egypt reiterated his firm objection "to bringing Jordan into the peace talks at this stage." As-Sadat's statements implied that he did not consider Husayn a negotiating partner at the present time.

It was Mr Herzog's impression that the Egyptian "scenario" for the continuation of the talks in 1981 was not based on the possibility of early elections in Israel, and from this aspect the feeling was that the Egyptians would prefer to see the elections in Israel to be held in November, as scheduled.

Herzog Impressions

TA121508 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Interview with reserve Maj Gen Hayim Herzog by correspondent Aharon Barne'a upon Herzog's return from Egypt, where he met with President as-Sadat and his advisers; time and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Did you get the impression that President as-Sadat was interested in the Likud government's fall and the continued Israeli-Egyptian negotiations with an Alignment-led Israeli Government?

[Herzog] I did not have this impression. On the contrary, President as-Sadat talked of Prime Minister Begin in a very positive manner. He noted the fact that although the arguments and deliberations with Begin were sharp and hard, the moment a matter was concluded, it was indeed so. In other words, Begin always kep his promise. Naturally he did not even try to express any desire regarding the political situation in Israel. However, he displayed great interest in the entire process, in the possible results, in possible new Knesset lists and related issues.

[Question] Did you raise any issues on your own initiative?

[Answer] No, I did not raise any issues. I had no mandate to do so. After all I am a private citizen. It seems that he read my book about the Yom Kippur war. By the way, I already knew that. I also knew that he was following many of the articles I wrote and addresses himself to them. It is my impression that they are interested in meeting and getting impressions from anybody whose writing is read by and influences Israeli public opinion.

[Question] Is it your impression that the Egyptians are studying us closely?

[Answer] My impression is that the Egyptians are studying us very well, in depth, and that they are very familiar with events in Israel today. It is my impression that they are well aware of all existing constraints and all concentrations of power in Israel. It is my impression that their knowledge of us surpasses the knowledge of Egypt within our communications media and leadership.

KNESSET MEMBER ABU-RABI'A SHOT TO DEATH 12 Jan

TA121946 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] About 30 minutes ago MK Hamad Abu-Rabi'a, who was in his car near the Jerusalem Holyland Hotel, was shot and killed. Our police correspondent, Dan Semama, reports that according to evidence collected by policemen on the spot, it appears that it was soldiers passing by in a military jeep who shot MK Abu-Rabi'a. The Jerusalem police have begun to search for the soldiers and roadblocks have been set up throughout the city.

Further Details

TA122013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Text] We now bring further details on the murder of MK Abu-Rabi'a. It emerges that there was an eyewitness to the murder, an elevator boy in the Holyland Hotel. The police are now searching Abu-Rabi'a's room in the hotel. A preliminary investigation has revealed that the murder was committed with a pistol. The jeep in which the murderers were seen fleeing was civilian, not military.

Police Reaction

TA130538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Excerpt] The police last night detained several persons for interrogation following the murder of MK Hamad Abu-Rabi'a. They were detained in Janin but they are apparently not local residents. This is reported by our correspondent, Shalom Oren. Throughout the night the police carried out reinforced patrols in Bedouin tent camps in the Negev. The southern district police recruited additional men, set up roadblocks and carried out searches throughout the region, including Jerusalem, the Dead Sea rift and the southern district. Police investigators are examining various possibilities. It is known that Abu-Rabi'a claimed that political rivals of his were seeking to assassinate him and he was even seen at times accompanied by bodyguards. The police are also looking into disputes in Abu-Rabi'a's tribe concerning the land arrangement in the Negev, which Abu-Rabi'a helped implement.

QIMHI SAYS RELATIONS WITH GREECE TO BE IMPROVED

TA121253 Jerusalem POST in English 12 Jan 81 p 2

[Text] Israel and Greece have decided on a number of concrete steps to improve relations, according to Foreign Ministry Director-General David Qimhi, who held high-level talks in Athens at the end of last week. But these steps will not include--for the present time, at any rate--full diplomatic ties.

Relations will remain at the level of "diplomatic representative," instead of full ambassador, implying Greece's less-than-full de jure recognition of Israel, Qimhi said.

Qimhi would not say what "concrete steps" were envisaged, citing Greece's extreme sensitivity in all matters concerning relations with Israel. But he did indicate that there would be more high-level contacts between the two governments.

His meetings with Foreign Minister Constantinos Mitsotakis and with senior officials of his ministry were the first such encounter in Athens. The Greek Government announced the meetings officially, but noted that Qimhi was "passing through Athens."

Qimhi said his talks had been "long, profound and fruitful." He predicted that there would be "more openness" in future relations, and that Greece would take more account of Israel's views, even if it did not necessarily agree with them. The Israeli diplomat acknowledged that Greece feels it has "special relations" with the Arab world. He had sought to persuade the Athens policymakers that these relations need not be impaired by improving ties with Israel.

RECENT DECISIONS ON KFIR PRODUCTION REPORTED

TA131004 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jan 81 p 1

[Text] The Kfir plane production line will not be closed and air force orders for the planes will continue, but if there are no export orders for the Kfirs by October 1981 another discussion will be held about the number of planes to be produced in the future. This decision was made recently by the top echelons of the Defense Ministry, together with Prime Minister and Defense Minister Menahem Begin.

The discussion was held at the end of last week and it covered directives for the continuation of Kfir production and a development program for the Lavi plane. When the decision on large-scale cuts to the defense budget was made, the budgetary staff in the defense establishment said that if there were to be a decision to continue developing the Lavi plane, it would apparently be necessary to stop producing the Kfir for the Israeli Air Force even though there were orders for the supply of this plane to the air force.

At the meeting presided over by Mr Begin it was agreed that the production of the Lavi over the coming year should not be harmed and an examination of the possibility of coproduction [with the United States] of the new plane and engine should be continued. At the same time a decision was made about the Kfir which was different from that published in the past. It was agreed to continue production of the Kfir for the Israeli Air Force. This will continue until October 1981. It is estimated that by then there is a good chance of signing a production deal for 12 or 24 Kfirs. Such a contract would permit production to continue for a considerable length of time. If for any reason the export contract is not signed, a new discussion will be held in October. It may be assumed that in such a case the orders for the Israel Air Force will be cut because of a shortage of money; in any event, the production line will not be closed until 1982, even if there are no export orders. It should be noted that these decisions restrict the IDF's budgetary maneuvering even further. As is known, the IDF is opposed to the development of the Lavi plane at the expense of the defense budget.

AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE HOLD TALKS ON CHAD

AB121345 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 12 Jan 81

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the anniversary of the national liberation festival several African heads of states have been invited.

Besides President Shagari of Nigeria, President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast and President Limann of Ghana, the following are expected in our capital: The heads of state of Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Libya, Sudan, Gabon, Kenya, Benin, Niger, Congo, CAR, Guinea Bissau, Senegal and Djibouti.

Besides attending the festivities of 13 January, the heads of state will discuss the Chadian drama. And this afternoon, seven of them will arrive in Lome. These are: President Shagari of Nigeria, President Houphouet-Boigny of the Ivory Coast, President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, President Sekou Toure of Guinea, President Limann of Ghana, President Amadou Ahidjo of Cameroon and David Dacko of Central Africa.

Libyan Minister's Arrival

AB130737 Paris AFP in English 0727 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Lome, Jan 13 (AFP)--Libyan Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam at-Turayki arrived here Monday night from Ndjamena to take part in today's informal African summit called to discuss Libya's intervention in Chad. Mr at-Turayki flew into Togo from the Chadian capital, where he had talks with Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei Monday.

Initial Discussions

AB131105 Paris AFP in English 1031 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Excerpt] Lome, Jan 13 (AFP)--The seven African heads of state here for an informal summit on the Chadian situation held a first meeting last night to discuss what judicial form any initiative decided should take, a reliable source said today.

The talks, suggested by President Siaka Stevens of Sierra Leone, current Organization of African Unity (OAU) chairman, will run parallel with celebrations here at President Gnassingbe Eyadema's 14th year in office.

Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and President Ahmed Kerekou of Benin, along with representatives from Niger and Sudan, were expected here later today to join Mr Stevens and six other heads of state, Felix Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast, Sekou Toure of Guinea, Hilla Limann of Ghana, Ahmadou Adhidjo of Cameroon, David Dacko of the Central African Republic and Shehu Shagari of Nigeria.

Observers noted that if Congo President Sassou-Nguesso arrived in the Togolese capital later today or tomorrow, the four-member OAU committee on Chad (Togo, Guinea, Benin and Congo) could back up efforts by the signatories of the Lagos agreements that led to the setting up of the present Transitional Government of National Union in Chad.

Sources here said today that President Houphouet-Boigny might brief his colleagues today on talks in Ivory Coast this week with French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet.

And most observers agreed that the African leaders were determined to reiterate the Lagos agreements and the cease-fire worked out at the end of Last year calling for the demilitarisation of Ndjamena and for a neutral force to be sent to the capital. No Chadian representatives were expected here for the informal summit.

NUJOMA COMMENTS ON PROGRESS OF GENEVA TALKS

AB121837 Paris AFP in English 1719 GMT 12 Jan 81

[By Dave Clemens]

[Excerpts] Geneva, 12 Jan (AFP)--Western and African delegations were engaged today in a struggle against time to get the South Africans and the parties they support in the Namibian conflict to agree to a peace settlement before the conference on the territory ends here Wednesday.

At the same time, the leader of the SWAPO (South-West Africa People's Organisation) nationalist guerrillas fighting South African rule pledged to step up the war if an agreement for a cease-fire and elections were not reached as a result of the talks.

In that case, we will intensify the war of national liberation to compel the South African racist regime to surrender power to the Namibian people, SWAPO President Sam Nujoma told a news conference. He said the nationalist movement would also continue its diplomatic and political campaign and would go all over the world seeking material and moral support.

Reliable sources said the Western five--the U.S., Britian, France, West Germany and Canada--that negotiated the U.N. settlement plan more than two years ago were giving South Africa a carefully-drafted message pressing it to agree to a March 30 cease-fire in the 14-year war with SWAPO guerrillas.

The precise content of the message to the South Africans was not known, but was believed to lay out for them the alternatives, especially in case the conference fails.

The internal parties have made the issue of what they see as UN partiality for SWAPO the main one of the conference, at which the UN wanted to discuss the final details of putting the plan into effect.

Mr Nujoma said that South Africa had delayed implementation of the U.N. plan since 1978. when Pretoria agreed to it, by deliberately placing one obstacle after another in the way. The so-called issue of impartiality is the latest in this long chain of unreasonable demands.

The SWAPO leader said that in view of this record, it is rather that the UN and the international community should require assurances from South Africa, which has ruled Namibia for 60 years under a mandate the UN has declared invalid.

In addition to SWAPO's own efforts, Mr Nujoma said the international community should lend serious and immediate attention and action to stop Pretoria's delaying tactics, deployed even as the South Africans intensified tyranny and oppression of the Namibian people and military action against Angola and Zambia, where there are SWAPO bases.

He said that SWAPO would call on the UN Security Council to take appropriate measures to punish the racist Pretoria regime if the South Africans were not committed by Wednesday to sign a cease-fire.

SOMALIA

RADIO COMMENTARY DENOUNCES SOVIET EXPANSIONISM

LD122020 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 12 Jan 81 EA

[Commentary by Abdi Idris Dualeh: "Moscow Lately Has Been Spreading Baseless Lies Against Somalia"]

[Text] Radio Moscow and TASS news agency have recently adopted the habit of accusing Somalia of expansionism and stirring up discord. They also oppose Somalia's desire for well-balanced relations with the rest of the world. The question that needs to be asked is: Is it Somalia or Russia that has expansionist designs in this region? Another question that needs to be asked is: What is behind Russia's propaganda?

The world knows that Somalia is the victim of provocative raids on its territory, the latest of which was last week's raid by Russian-built aircraft on Somalia's Wirwir and Bohotleh areas. It is known that the Russians have brought thousands of experts, advisers and troops, including 14,000 Cuban soldiers, into Ethiopia. Russia has also given Mengistu a large quantity of weapons, worth over $2 billion.

A VOA correspondent, [name indistinct], recently reported on Russian expansion in the region and adjacent seas. He said Moscow has begun building up and extending its military base in the Dahlak Islands, which are among the colonized territories of Eritrea. Russia also has other bases in Eritrea--in Massawa and Assab.

As for Aden, observers fear that the entire country might become a network of Russian bases. Moscow's forces have a big base on the island of Socotra off Aden. It is reported that 26 Russian warships are patrolling the Indian Ocean. All this clearly indicates that the Russian leaders are trying to extend their control over this region.

Somalia has warned the world of the dangers occasioned by these moves and, by refusing to heed Russian threats and provocations, [words indistinct] the Mengistu regime, which has been transformed into a tool for Russian expansionism.

Russian expansionist strategy is not confined to this region alone but embraces Africa in general, into which Moscow has brought more than 40,000 (?Cubans). Libya, which the Russians (?use for) North, Central and West Africa, recently [words indistinct]. Reliable sources report that Libyan troops disarmed the soldiers they were supporting and that Al-Qadhdhafi compelled the Chad leader to accept what Libya terms the merger between the two countries. President Jaf'aar Numayri of Sudan, who said that Russia (?was behind) the Chad issue, said that if Libya [words indistinct].

Turning to Asia, we note that a year has passed since Russian troops invaded Afghanistan. In spite of worldwide condemnation of this invasion, there are now up to 90,000 troops, 2,450 tanks, 3,150 armored cars and 320 military aircraft in that country. Reports say that within a space of only 5 months, 10,000 Russian soldiers were killed in bitter fighting [passage indistinct].

U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown said recently in Japan that Russia has reinforced its forces in [word indistinct] island, one of the four islands Russia captured from Japan towards the end of World War II, by bringing in the most up-to-date Russian-built aircraft. Mr Brown described this as one of Russia's moves to strengthen its military forces in the Far East.

All this is part of the Russian strategy of expansion and is indicative of the fact that when Russia accuses Somalia of expansionism, it is merely revealing its desire to turn Somalia into one of its surrogates, as it has done in the case of Ethiopia.

Moscow seems to think that the word spurious actually means reliable, because only the day before yesterday Radio Moscow quoted reliable sources as saying that Somali groups had made raids into Kenya. Neither Kenya nor the rest of the world reported any such Somali attacks on Kenyan territory.

The lies which Radio Moscow has made a habit of telling of late have the following objectives: 1) To provide the Abyssinian regime and its other stooges with an excuse for attacking Somalia and 2) To create a pretext to being about Somalia's isolation from the rest of the world.

The world, however, is aware of Russia's expansionist policy in the region and the various guises assumed by that policy--be they political, diplomatic or in the form of propaganda. [?For this reason) Somalia cannot be held accountable for lies. The Somali Democratic Republic is an independent country with the right to engage in friendly relations with anyone sharing its interests. It also constantly safeguards and defends its territorial integrity, its people's right to self-determination and the security of the region.

LIBERATION FORCES REPORT CLASHES 1, 3 JAN

LD121856 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 12 Jan 81 EA

[Text] The fearless western Somali liberation forces and the Abyssinian black colonialist soldiers clashed in the town of Dagamedo, in (Nogob) district, on 3 January. Eight Abyssinian soliders were killed and many others wounded.

The fearless Somali Abo Liberation forces and the Abyssianians clashed fiercely on 1 January, at (Warta Nil), in Sidamo region. The freedom fighters killed 43 enemy soldiers and wounded many others as well as destroying 1 truck and capturing 22 AK rifles. The freedom fighters lost 3 martyrs, and 20 others were wounded.

UGANDA

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM KENYA TRADE TALKS

LD121846 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Jan 81 EA

[Text] A Uganda delegation headed by the minister of regional cooperation, Mr Sam Tewungwa, has returned home after holding successful talks with Kenya authorities. The week-long talks centered on the transportation of Uganda exports and imports, port facilities at Mombasa, customs and the security at the common border between the two countries. In their deliberations, the two sides resolved to increase normal trade between the two countries and to stamp out smuggling along the common border.

Other members of the delegation included the ministers of marketing and cooperatives: of commerce, Mr Omara-Aliro; and other senior government officials.

CHAD

GOUKOUNI VOICES HOSTILITY TOWARD FRENCH POLICIES

AB130759 Paris AFP in English 0753 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Text] Ndjamena, Chad, Jan 12 (AFP)--Chadian leader Goukouni Oueddei, in an interview with A.F.P. here yesterday, expressed his hostility to the policies of France, the country's former colonial power, which he claimed was lining up African states against Chad. He charged that France was at present mobilising its military, press and financial means to bring back (rebel former Defence Minister) Hissein Habre to Chad.

I take the threat seriously, said the winner of the just ended eight-month-long civil war against forces headed by Mr Habre.

Mr Goukouni refused to comment in detail on the plan to merge Libya and Chad, instigated during his recent visit to Tripoli. He said, however, that Chadians were campaigning for the integrity, unity and sovereignty of their country.

He affirmed "Chad is Chad and Libya is Libya."

Questioned on the latest strengthening of the French military presence in nearby Central African Republic, another former French colony, Mr Goukouni said he was not worried, although he took the threat seriously.

At the end of the fighting in Ndjamena, "the French government took the decision to intervene in Chad to save Hissein Habre," he said.

Mr Goukouni made his statement as the Chadian cabinet was terminating a meeting which had been postponed from Saturday. The CHAD NEWS AGENCY was today due to give a communique on that meeting.

The Chadian leader asked where Mr Habre was at present. "If he is not in Paris he must be somewhere between Sudan and Egypt," he said, adding that Chad had not given up its attempts to have him extradited.

On the proposed Chad-Libya merger, Mr Goukouni added: "All countries that are worried are only worried about illusions--my visit to Tripoli should not worry France or the African countries."

Mr Goukouni affirmed that he had approved the Tripoli merger communique as president of the Chadian Government because Chad is a sovereign country, free to take the decisions it wants.

Stating that he planned to invite to Ndjamena Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Mr Goukouni said that the invitation would be sent at an opportunate time and he added that other heads of state would also be asked to come to the country.

Returning to the subject of France, Mr Goukouni charged that Paris is trying to oppose non-Moslems with Moslems, South against North.

But stressing there was no hostility between the peoples of Chad and France, Mr Goukouni added, "despite the errors that have been made, I cannot exclude or question the co-operation between France and Chad."

ZAIRE

INQUIRY, DISCUSSION CONTINUE IN COMMISSIONERS' CASE

Immunity Rescindments

AB101310 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 10 Jan 81

[Excerpt] In a statement concerning the New Year's eve conspiracy, the state commissioner for justice said that in addition to what is already known to the public, the inquiry also revealed that People's Commissioners (Lumbu Balola, Sioungou Wakumuanza, Basala Kalaba, Kria and Siligalime) had taken part in the composition and drafting of the subversive document.

The immunity of the first three was lifted by the Legislative Council's Bureau when it met in the afternoon of 7 January 1981. The immunity of the last two was lifted yesterday Friday, 9 January 1981. All these people have been placed under house arrest. In all, 11 people's commissioners are now under house arrest. The first group includes six persons while the second includes five.

We wish to report also that People's Commissioner (Sioungou Wakumuanza) recently offered himself for arrest in solidarity with People's Commissioner (Ngalula) and his group but his offer was rejected because there was no serious charge against him.

Central Committee Discussion

AB131003 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Summary] The Central Committee of the Popular Movement of the Revolution [MPR] met on 5 January to discuss the case of the 13 people's commissioners who signed the unpardonable letter addressed to the founding chairman. This MPR organ will have to do everything to put an end to the slander campaign organized against Zaire by its habitual foreign detractors. Without trying to speculate on the final conclusions the MPR Central Committee may draw from this affair, we believe that it will not hesitate to repress the unworthy behavior of those involved and take all necessary measures to obstruct the path of our country's enemies.

"It is understood that the step taken by the Central Committee does not in any way affect the judicial measures which could be taken against the accused people's commissioners who have chosen falsehood and perfidy as a political means " They wanted to help the enemy to create division and confusion between the head of [illegible]e and his people. As the head of state has always said, Zaire has no political problems. Zaire is open to cooperation with all nations provided this cooperation does not entail conditions which are incompatible with its sovereignty."

IVORY COAST

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER'S DEPARTURE COMMENTS

AB121040 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 12 Jan 81 p 8

[Text] Between France and the Ivory Coast, there is complete similarity of views both in the field of cooperation between the two countries and also on major problems of our times, especially African problems and particularly problems concerning its development and the most important and sensitive problems of stabilization of primary products and Africa's security.

This is what Jean Francois-Poncet told journalists just before leaving our country. Asked about France's new position on current cocoa prices, the French foreign minister said that since 1945 France's position has been that the stabilization of primary products is a primary need for the developing countries to achieve progress, stability and prosperity and we have devoted considerable effort to supporting this position. President Valery Giscard d'Estaing himself has approached some international partners to make the Ivory Coast's concern known to them. He added that there has been some progress even if it is insufficient. Mr Francois-Poncet stressed that his country would continue its negotiations through the most effective means. Surely, it is not easy, he admitted, but with hope and determination our ideas will prevail because I am convinced that this is the best policy and it is also fair to Africa.

On the problem of Chad, Mr Francois-Poncet said he explained to President Houphouet-Boigny why France withdrew its force from Ndjamena. France withdrew its troops at the demand of 10 African states meeting in Lagos and at the written request of the Transitional Government of Chad. This is in accordance with African wishes and France respects the independence of African states, he added.

But in the face of the threat that looms over Africa, Mr Francois-Poncet said, France will support its African friends and the necessary military steps have been taken.

NIGER

LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL ORDERED TO LEAVE

AB131415 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Text] In a communique made public this morning by Information Minister Mahamadou Halilou, the Niger Government has ordered the closure of the people's bureau, the consulate and cultural center of Libya. Members of the three services have been given up to 48 hours to leave the national territory of Niger.

The information minister said the decision was prompted on the one hand by the transformation of the Libyan Embassy into a People's Bureau without prior consultation with Niger's government, and on the other hand by the undiplomatic dealings which the diplomats of that mission have embarked upon.

NIGERIA

PRESS ASSESSES IMPLICATIONS OF LIBYA-CHAD MERGER

AB131200 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 13 Jan 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The DAILY TIMES and the NIGERIAN CHRONICLE write on the proposed merger between Libya and Chad.

The TIMES focuses on the implications to the merger which it believes is designed to aggravate (?standards) in Nigeria. The paper contends so because according to it the union came in the wake of the federal government's rejection of Libya's change of diplomatic profile in the country. It seriously holds the view that a successful merger between Libya and Chad will pose a threat to the nation's security since Chad is one of Nigeria's closest neighbors. The TIMES therefore stresses the need for the federal government to intensify security along the country's borders.

On the other hand, the NIGERIAN CHRONICLE sees the proposed fusion as one of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's plan to have easy assess to the abundant uranium deposits in that country. The paper regards the union as an arrangement between leaders of the two countries and stresses that it will not [words indistinct]. The CHRONICLE, however, commends the OAU position to hold a meeting on the issue, and calls on the (?others) to come up with concrete proposals to find solution to Libya's imperialism on the continent.

The DAILY STAR also takes a look at the proposed merger between Libya and Chad and strongly believes that fusion will have severe repercusion on the war-torn Chadian economy. It also remarks that the union will offer a direct threat to peace and stability in Chad, thereby prolonging the civil war. Apart from these, the paper feels the so-called merger will negate the Organization of African Unity's panacea for achieving peace in Chad through the conduct of national elections. The STAR adds that no action on the future of Chad will have any international validity unless taken by a government set up by the free will of the people.